やさしいセカイのつくりかた 5

竹葉久美子

やさしいセカイの
5

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illust
MKI ZINGUZ

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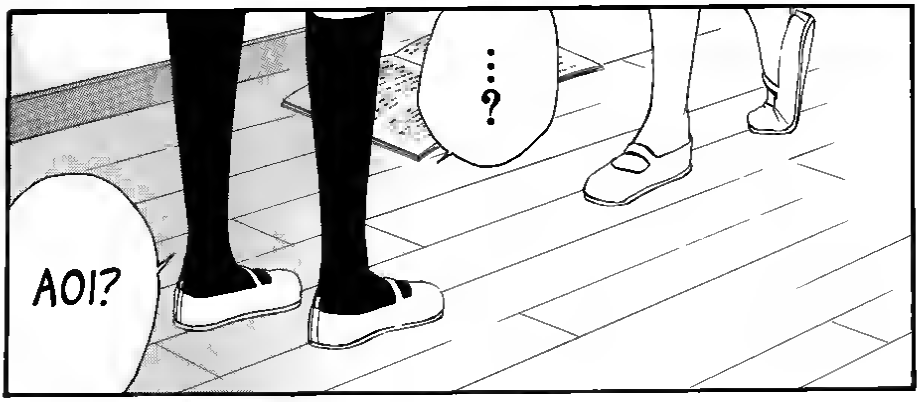
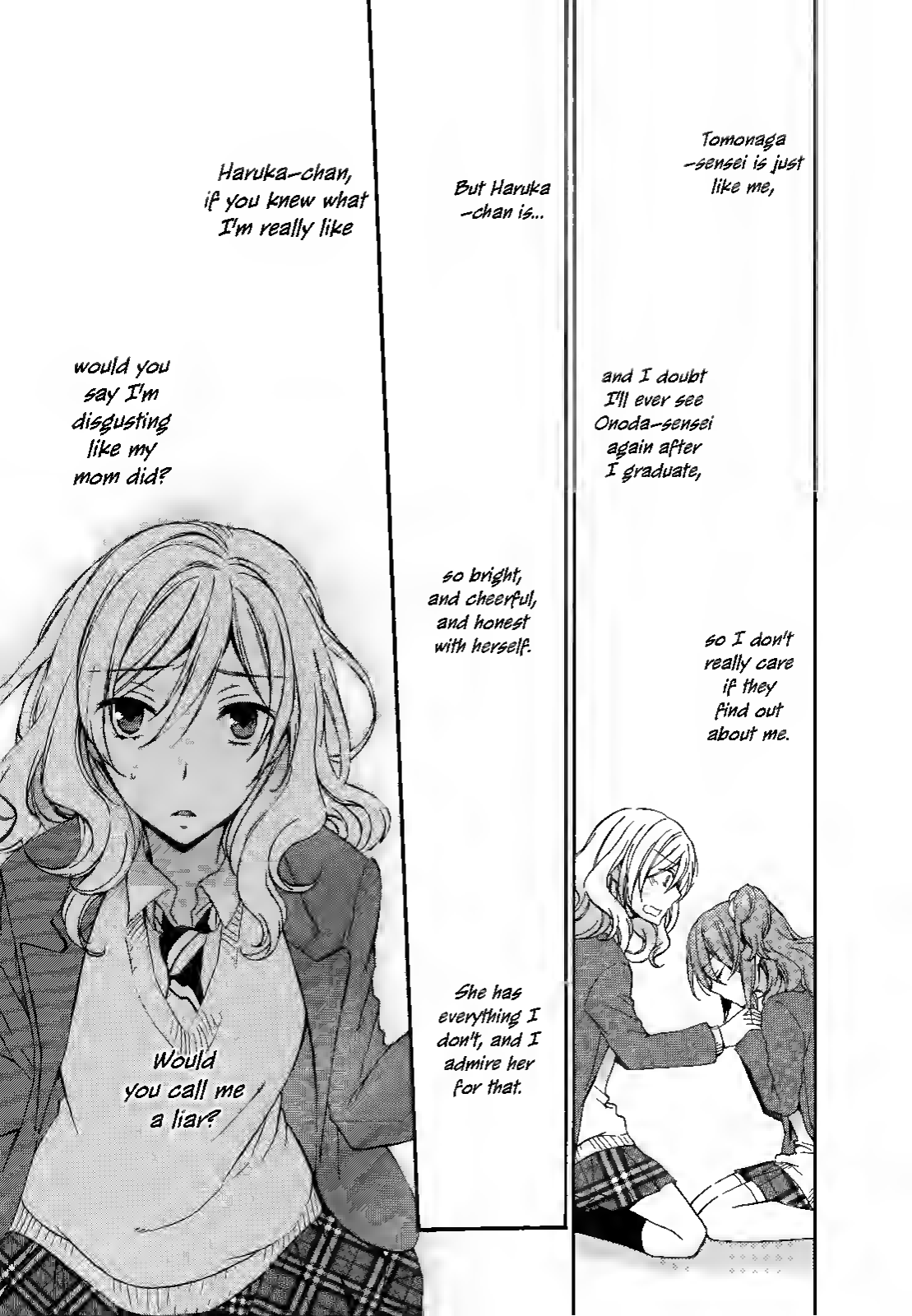
HEY, ISN'T THAT BLACKBOARD
THE ONE TOMONAGA'S ALWAYS TELLING US NOT TO TOUCH?
IS IT OK FOR YOU TO MESS WITH IT?


...?
AOI?

[CHAPTER 20] LIAR'S LAGRANGE POINT

It'd be easy to dodge her question.
Haruka-chan's very trusting. I'm sure she'd believe anything I told her...
But
I...

WHA-
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
ARE YOU OK!?
AOI!?
What do I do?
I'm so scared.


Haruka-chan, if you knew what I'm really like
would you say I'm disgusting like my mom did?
Would you call me a liar?
But Haruka-chan is...
so bright, and cheerful, and honest with herself.
She has everything I don't, and I admire her for that.
Tomonaga-sensei is just like me,
and I doubt I'll ever see Onoda-sensei again after I graduate,
so I don't really care if they find out about me.

I've really only got myself to blame for this anyway.
I chose to lie and sneak my way into their group, sitting in that relaxing world with an innocent look on my face.

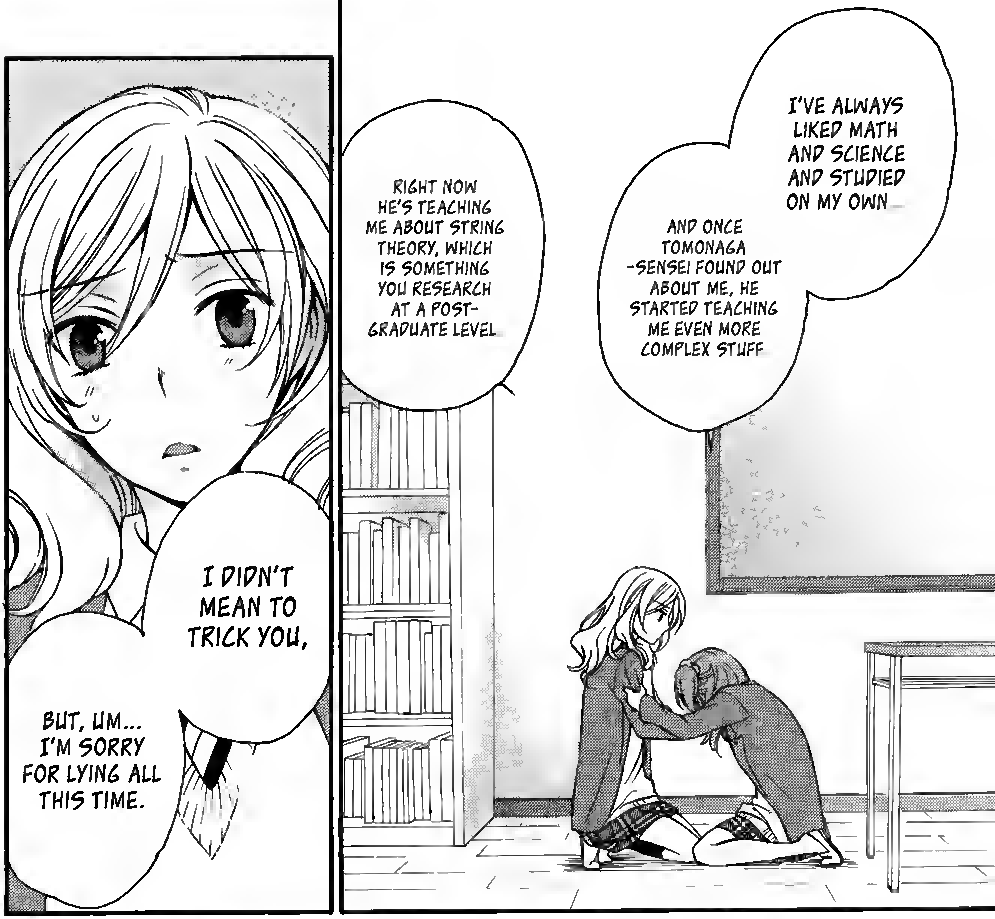
This must be my punishment for lying to them.
I don't want to lose my place in their world.
But, even if it is,

?
?
POL...
LINE INTEGRAL?
AOI... YOU'VE BEEN LEARNING THIS STUFF?
UMM...
UH
I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT ANY OF THIS EVEN MEANS
IS HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICS THIS HARD?
IF IT'S THIS HARD,
MAYBE PHYSICS REALLY IS TOO MUCH FOR ME.
No... I have to tell her.

IT'S NOT!!
IT'S NOT!! THAT'S COLLEGE GRADUATE LEVEL PHYSICS!
HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICS ARE SIMPLE EQUATIONS THAT DON'T EVEN COUNT FOR FRICTION!
PLEASE HARUKA-CHAN,
If I don't, everything Haruka-chan's done will have been for nothing!
DON'T GIVE UP!!

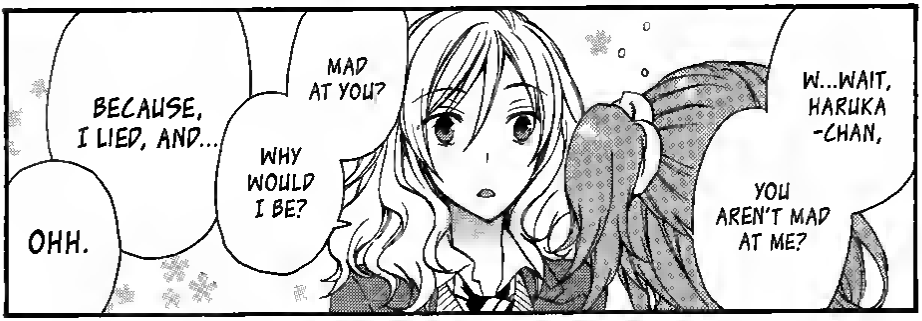
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I bet she hates me now.
I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
Nobody would ever forgive a liar like me.
UMM,
I went and said it.
Ahh.

I'M ACTUALLY JUST LIKE TOMONAGA -SENSEI,
IN THAT APPARENTLY MY BRAIN DEVELOPED A LITTLE FASTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE'S
But as long as
Haruka-chan will keep on smiling like she always has, then...


I'VE ALWAYS LIKED MATH AND SCIENCE AND STUDIED ON MY OWN...
AND ONCE TOMONAGA -SENSEI FOUND OUT ABOUT ME, HE STARTED TEACHING ME EVEN MORE COMPLEX STUFF.
RIGHT NOW HE'S TEACHING ME ABOUT STRING THEORY, WHICH IS SOMETHING YOU RESEARCH AT A POST-GRADUATE LEVEL.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO TRICK YOU,
BUT, UM... I'M SORRY FOR LYING ALL THIS TIME.

LYING?
YOU MEAN HOW YOU HID THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY SMART?
YEAH.
It's all over now—
OH...

Eh—
LIKE, THAT MEANS YOU'RE A GENIUS, RIGHT?
BUT ISN'T THAT PRETTY AWESOME?

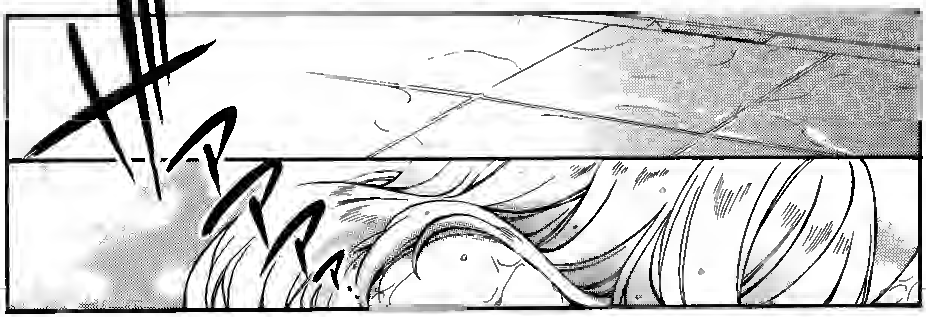

OHH.
BECAUSE, I LIED, AND...
MAD AT YOU?
WHY WOULD I BE?
W...WAIT, HARUKA -CHAN,
YOU AREN'T MAD AT ME?

WERE YOU REALLY WORRIED ABOUT A LITTLE THING LIKE THAT?
IT'S FINE, EVERYONE'S GOT A THING OR TWO THEY DON'T WANT OTHER PEOPLE TO KNOW

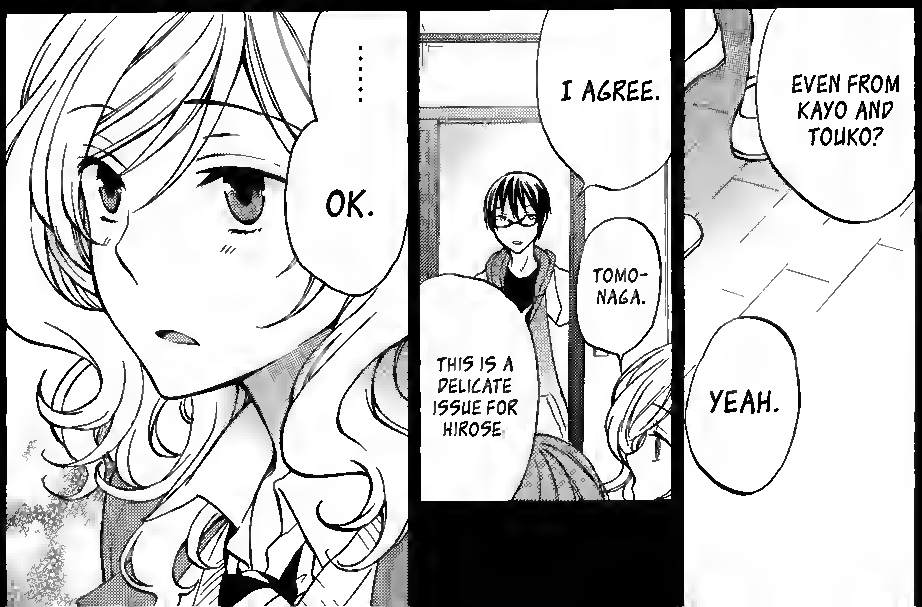
I was just waiting for this.
Waiting for somebody to accept me.
Ahh, this is it.
WHAT? HOW WOULD THAT MAKE YOU DISGUSTING?
YOU'RE JUST LIKE TOMONAGA, RIGHT?
IF ANYTHING, I'M JEALOUS OF YOU.
BUT
I...
UM...
YOU DON'T THINK...
THAT I'M DISGUSTING?

for me to be who I am.
To tell me that it's OK
SORRY, WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?
WHA-
AOI, WHAT'S WRONG!?
That it's OK,
I'M NOT WEIRD?
YOU REALLY MEAN IT?
YOU MEAN IT?
for me to be here.

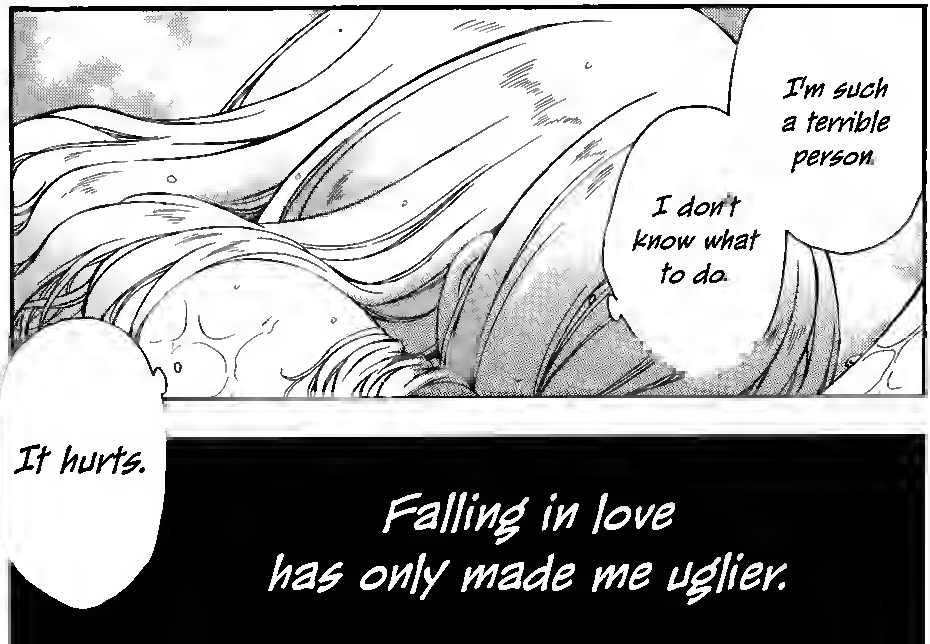
YOU'RE NOT WEIRD AT ALL.
WHY WOULD YOU EVEN THINK YOU'RE WEIRD ANYWAY?
YOU'RE TINY, AND CUTE,
AND YOU'RE SMART. YOU'VE PRACTICALLY GOT IT ALL.
.YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
SORRY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.
OK?
AOI.



SORRY HARUKA -CHAN,
WHAT YOU SAID MADE ME REALLY HAPPY,
BUT... I'M STILL NERVOUS ABOUT TELLING EVERYONE ELSE.
SO CAN WE KEEP THIS A SECRET FOR NOW?


EVEN FROM KAYO AND TOUKO?
YEAH.
I AGREE.
TOMO-NAGA.
THIS IS A DELICATE ISSUE FOR HIROSE.
.....
OK.

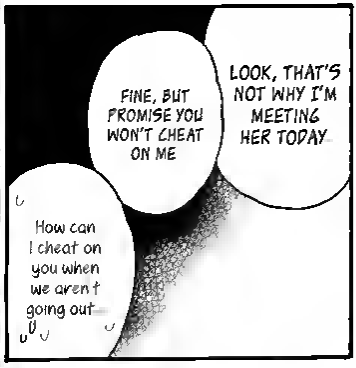
Even though that's exactly what's been causing her so much pain.
I was so relieved to find out there wasn't anything romantic between Aoi and Tomonaga.
And I also got jealous of Aoi for being able to see the world the way Tomonaga does.


I'm such a terrible person
I don't know what to do.
It hurts.
Falling in love has only made me uglier.

COME ON NOW,
ARE YOU GONNA POUT LIKE THAT ALL DAY?

BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE GONNA SAY YOU LIKE HER WAY BETTER THAN ME.
HAHH.

YOU'RE GOING TO SEE MY SISTER TODAY, AREN'T YOU?
WELL, YEAH.
THEN YES, I AM.

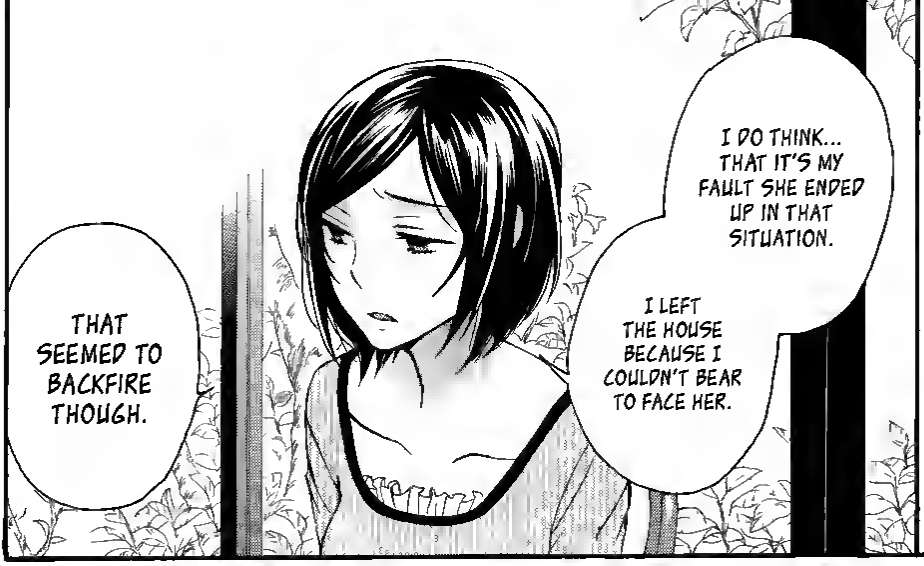

LOOK, THAT'S NOT WHY I'M MEETING HER TODAY
FINE, BUT PROMISE YOU WON'T CHEAT ON ME
How can I cheat on you when we aren't going out

DO YOU SWEAR
YOU WON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH MY SISTER?

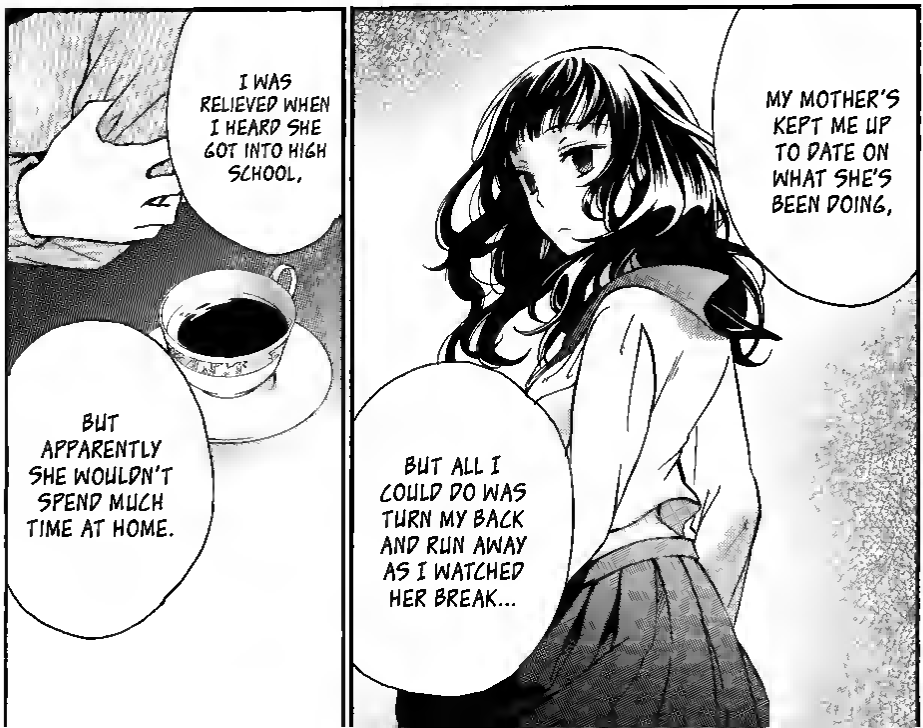
AHH,
YEAH YEAH, SURE.

How much older is her sister anyway?
9-10 years? So she's about 25-26?
Hmm, I'd say that's in my strikezone.
UMM,

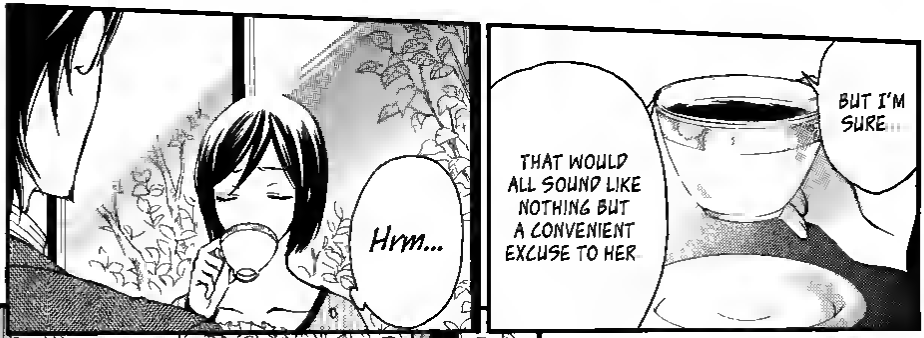
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT.
IT'S NO TROUBLE, I'M THE ONE WHO ASKED YOU TO COME HERE.
Oh yeah, she's a stike alright.
ARE YOU ONODA -SENSEI?
AH, YES.
IT'S OK, IT'S MY LITTLE SISTER AFTER ALL
I SHOULD BE APOLOGIZING TO YOU FOR MAKING YOU TAKE CARE OF HER
THANK YOU.
ANYWAY, PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.
...I SEE.
SO, I KNOW THE GIST OF WHAT HAPPENED.
DID SHE TELL YOU ABOUT IT?
THAT SHE DID.


I DO THINK... THAT IT'S MY FAULT SHE ENDED UP IN THAT SITUATION.
I LEFT THE HOUSE BECAUSE I COULDN'T BEAR TO FACE HER.
THAT SEEMED TO BACKFIRE THOUGH.

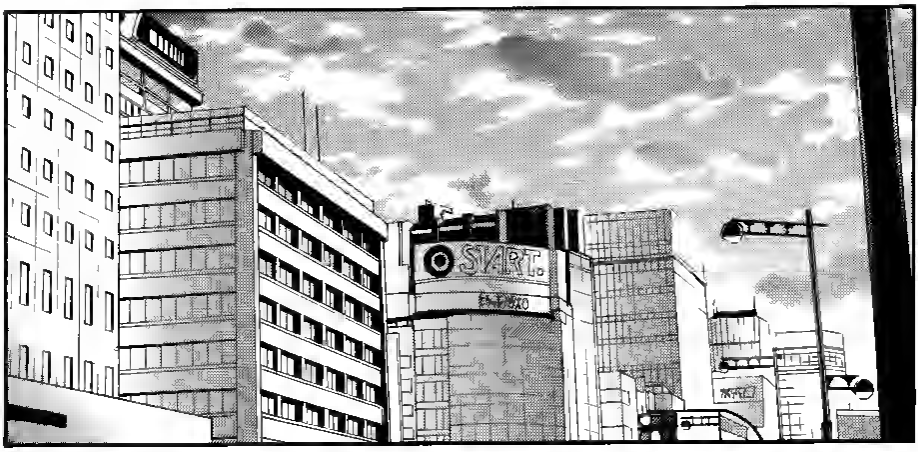
ACTUALLY... SHE MIGHT HAVE NOTICED,
THE FACT THAT SOMEWHERE IN MY MIND, I FELT THAT SHE STOLE HIM FROM ME.
EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD TO HAVE BEEN HURT FAR MORE THAN ME.

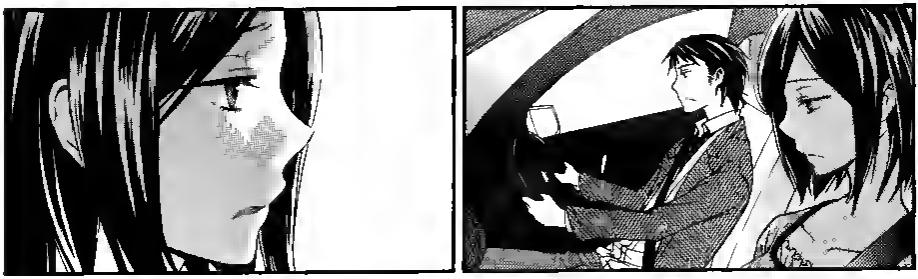

MY MOTHER'S KEPT ME UP TO DATE ON WHAT SHE'S BEEN DOING,
BUT ALL I COULD DO WAS TURN MY BACK AND RUN AWAY AS I WATCHED HER BREAK...
I WAS RELIEVED WHEN I HEARD SHE GOT INTO HIGH SCHOOL,
BUT APPARENTLY SHE WOULDN'T SPEND MUCH TIME AT HOME.

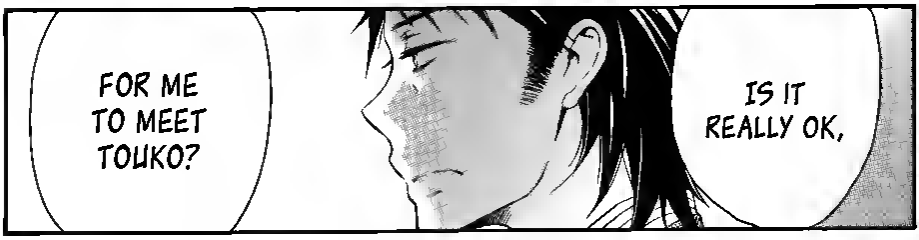
THE FACT THAT IT'S MY FAULT SHE ENDED UP LIKE THAT SCARED ME SO MUCH,
THAT I WAS UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING TO HELP HER.

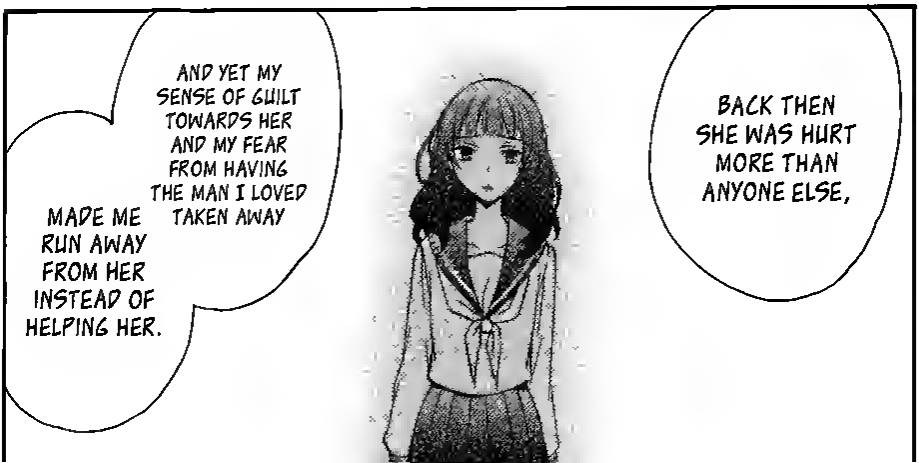

BUT I'M SURE...
THAT WOULD ALL SOUND LIKE NOTHING BUT A CONVENIENT EXCUSE TO HER
Hrm...

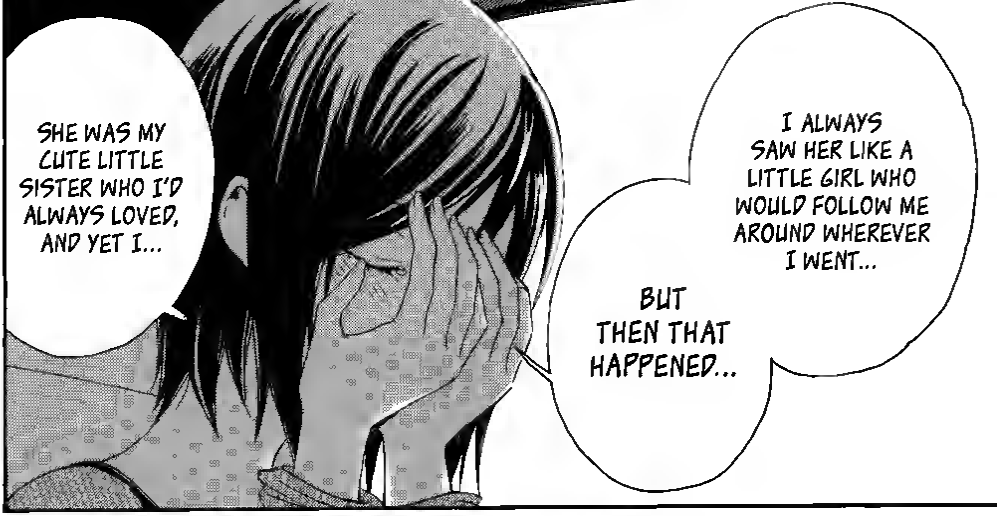
Her sister seems pretty reasonable.
UMM,
IF YOU DON'T MIND...

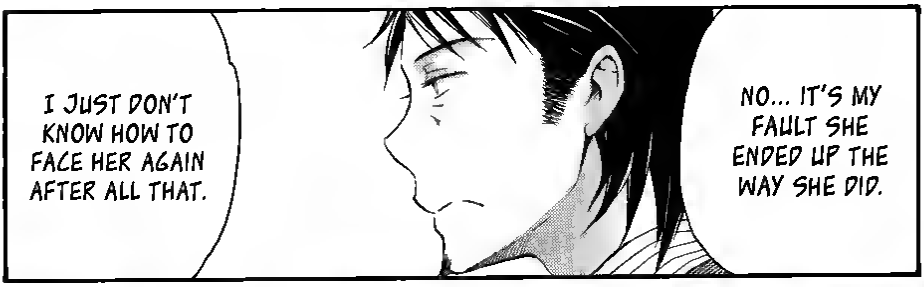

START




FOR ME TO MEET TOUKO?
IS IT REALLY OK,


AND YET MY SENSE OF GUILT TOWARDS HER AND MY FEAR FROM HAVING THE MAN I LOVED TAKEN AWAY
MADE ME RUN AWAY FROM HER INSTEAD OF HELPING HER.
BACK THEN SHE WAS HURT MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE,

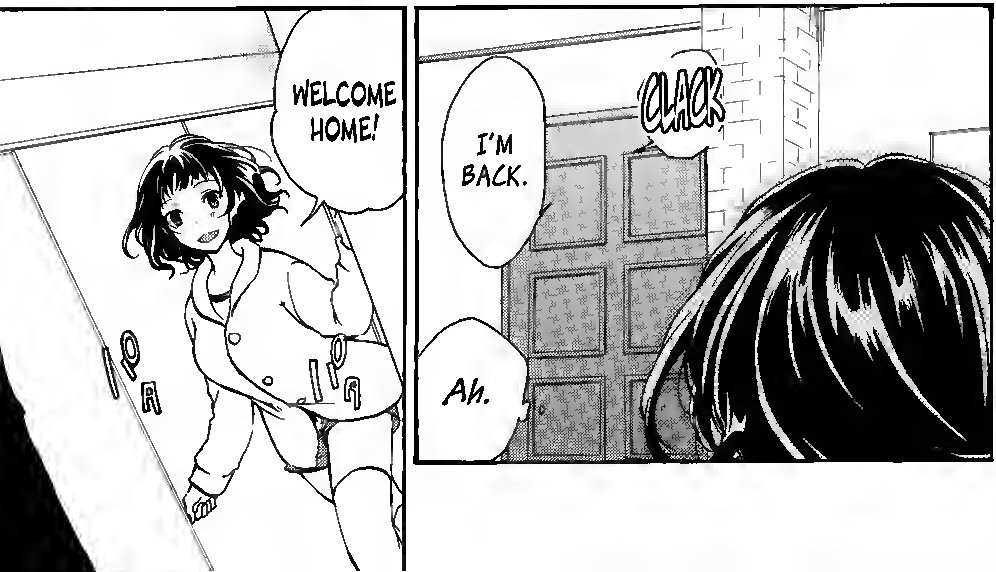

I ALWAYS SAW HER LIKE A LITTLE GIRL WHO WOULD FOLLOW ME AROUND WHEREVER I WENT...
BUT THEN THAT HAPPENED...
SHE WAS MY CUTE LITTLE SISTER WHO I'D ALWAYS LOVED, AND YET I...


NO... IT'S MY FAULT SHE ENDED UP THE WAY SHE DID.
I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO FACE HER AGAIN AFTER ALL THAT.

.....
IF YOU ASK ME, YOUR LITTLE SISTER
IS STILL JUST A LITTLE KID WHO ONLY WANTED
TO BE MORE LIKE HER BELOVED BIG SISTER.
PLEASE, GO MEET HER. I KNOW SHE'S WAITING FOR YOU.

Hahh, nothing good's on.
I wish Sensei would come back already.

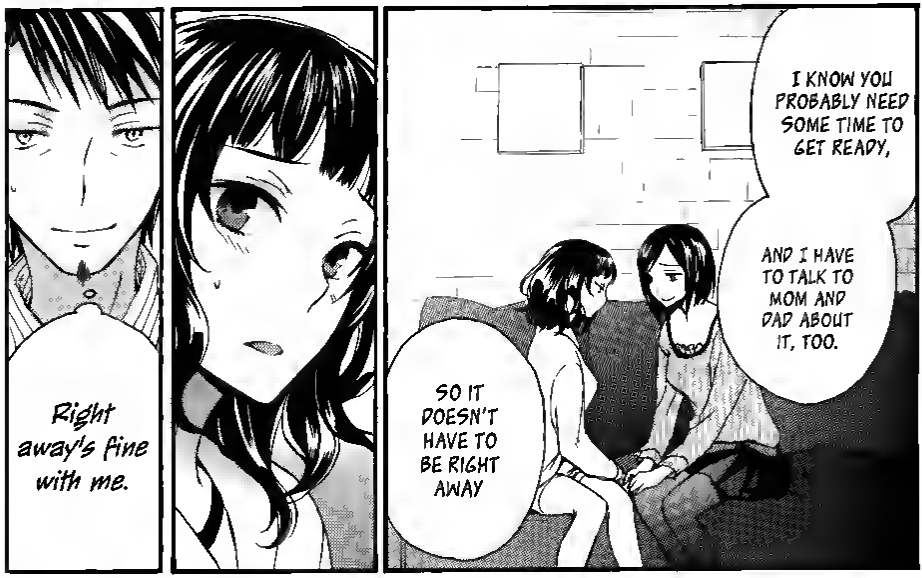
As long as he's around,
I don't need anything else.

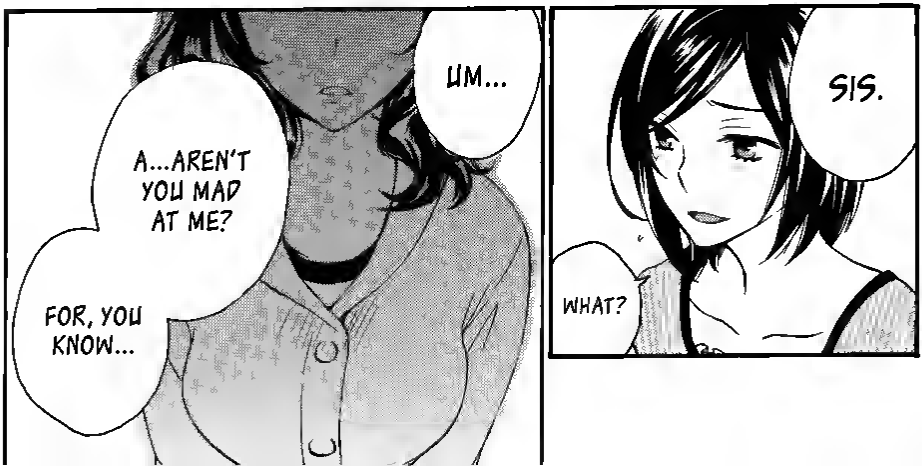

WELCOME HOME!
I'M BACK.
CLACK
Ah.

SIS.
TOUKO -CHAN.
EH-
!!
I HAD HER COME WITH ME.
AH,
OK, THANK YOU
NO NEED TO TALK HERE, COME ON INSIDE.

HEY, TOUKO -CHAN.

WILL YOU COME HOME WITH YOUR BIG SISTER?
I'LL COMMUTE TO WORK FROM OUR PARENTS' PLACE FOR A WHILE, TOO .
.....


I KNOW YOU PROBABLY NEED SOME TIME TO GET READY,
AND I HAVE TO TALK TO MOM AND DAD ABOUT IT, TOO.
SO IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE RIGHT AWAY
Right away's fine with me.


SIS.
WHAT?
UM...
A...AREN'T YOU MAD AT ME?
FOR, YOU KNOW...

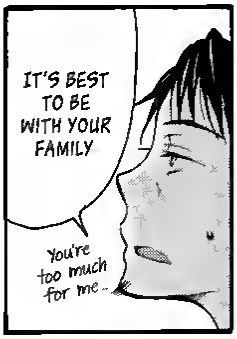
...YEAH,
THE TRUTH IS,
I WAS SAD, AND HURT, AND UPSET...
BUT,
KNOWING THAT I PUT YOU THROUGH SO MUCH PAIN,
HURT ME MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

I'M SORRY THAT I COULDN'T PROTECT YOU, TOUKO.
WE CAN TAKE IT ONE STEP AT A TIME.
WILL YOU BE MY LITTLE SISTER AGAIN?

YEAH.

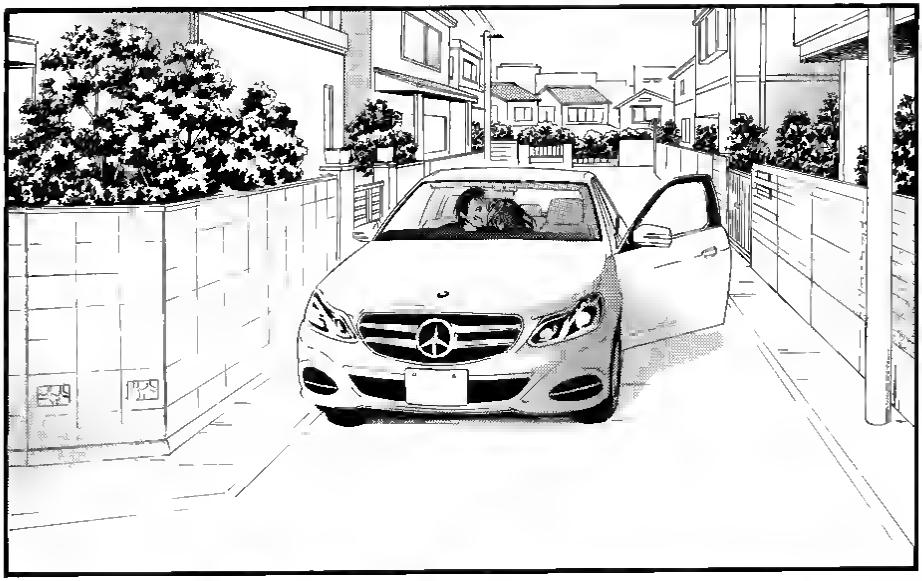
WELL, I GUESS IT'S OK SINCE I STILL GET TO SEE YOU AT SCHOOL.

I WOULDA BEEN FINE AS LONG AS I HAD YOU.


IT'S BEST TO BE WITH YOUR FAMILY
You're too much for me...

I'M GLAD YOU MANAGED TO GET BACK HOME BEFORE MOVING UP A YEAR IN SCHOOL.
CASE CLOSED.

SURE THING.
AH.
Almost forgot
HELP ME OUT IF I EVER RUN INTO TROUBLE AGAIN, OK?



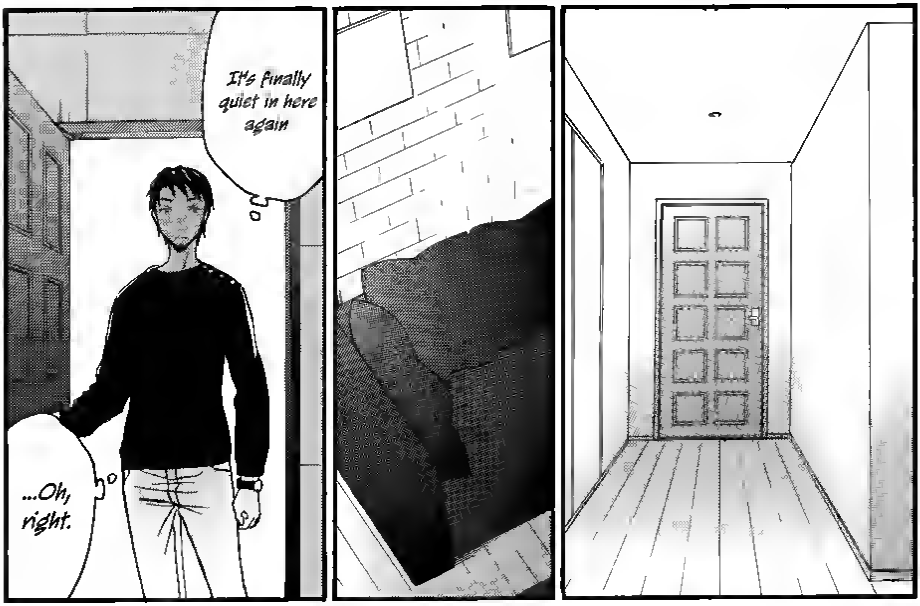
THIS DOESN'T MEAN,
THAT I'VE GIVEN UP ON YOU, SENSEI.

Huh?
KEEP THAT IN MIND.

Hahh.
Man this is bad.

SEE YOU LATER.

This is really bad.
.....


It's finally quiet in here again
...Oh, right.

I can finally sleep in my own bed again now that she's gone.
I get to sleep in my own bed, and I can enjoy the sweet bachelor life.

WELCOME HOME,
SENSEI.
Man this is bad.
The bed I hadn't seen in weeks still lingered with her scent,
I can't believe
that I'm feeling lonely without her now.
leaving me far from a good night's sleep.

The bed was too hard
to sleep in, so he slept on
the couch for a while.

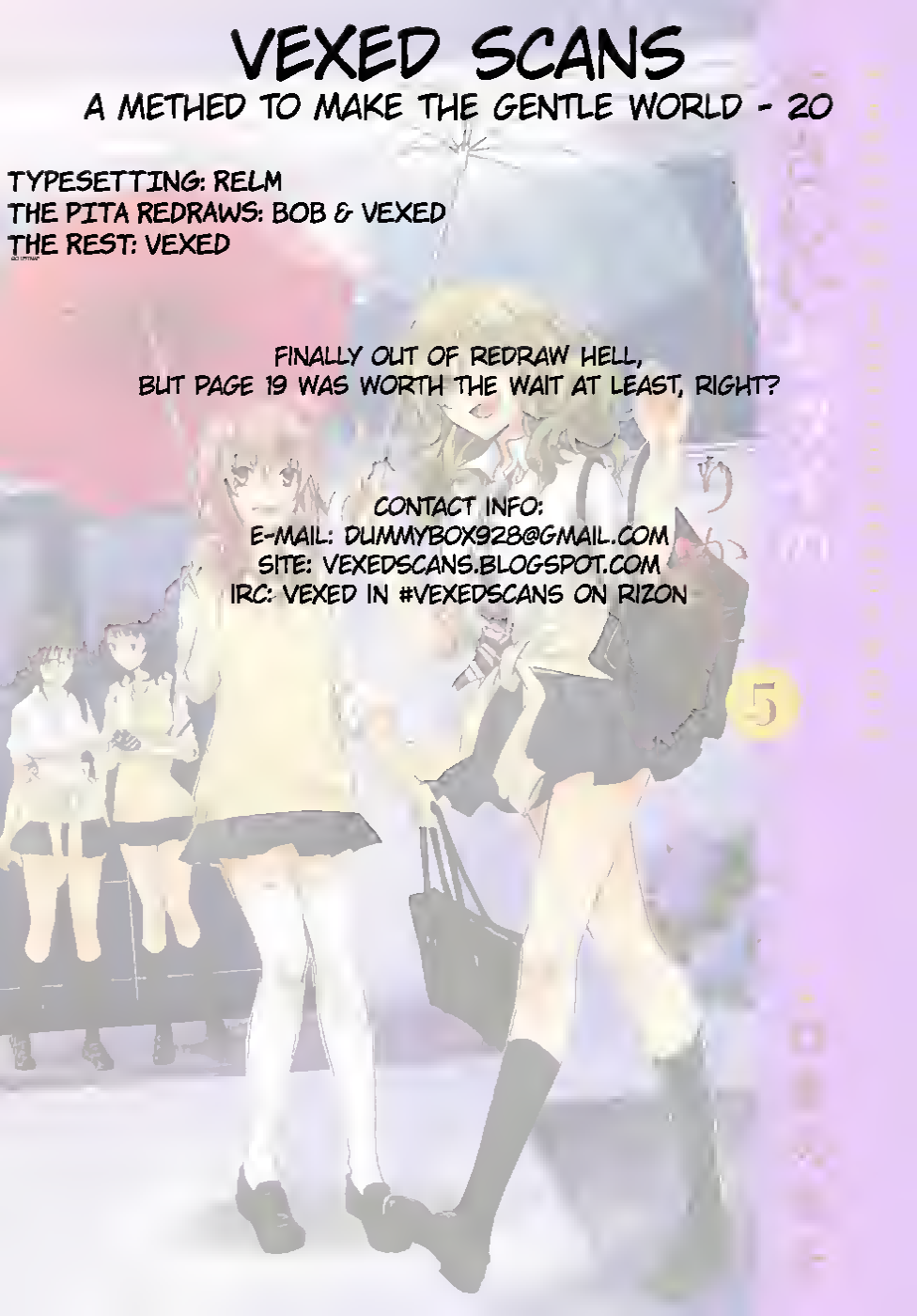
VEXED SCANS

A METHED TO MAKE THE GENTLE WORLD - 20

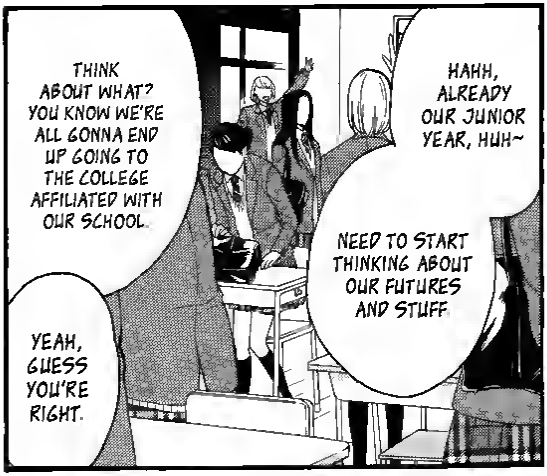
TYPESETTING: RELM
THE PITA REDRAWS: BOB & VEXED
THE REST: VEXED

FINALLY OUT OF REDRAW HELL,
BUT PAGE 19 WAS WORTH THE WAIT AT LEAST, RIGHT?

CONTACT INFO:
E-MAIL: DUMMYBOX928@GMAIL.COM
SITE: VEXEDSCANS.BLOGSPOT.COM
IRC: VEXED IN #VEXEDSCANS ON RIZON

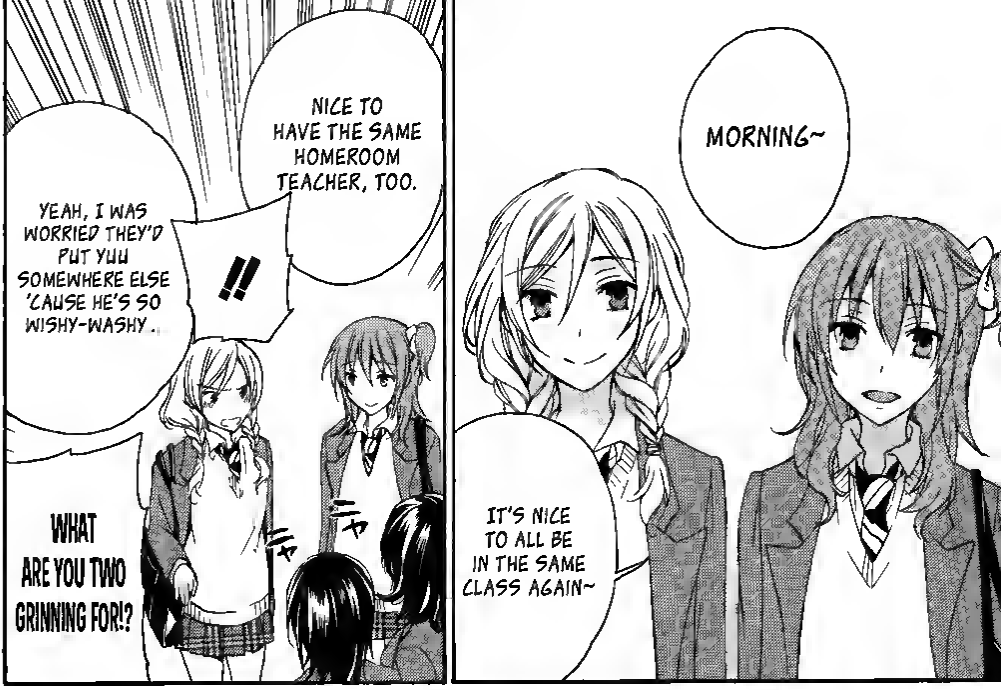


OH, CHECK OUT ALL THE FRESHMEN, THEY LOOK SO INNOCENT.
YEAH, HARD TO BELIEVE THAT WAS US JUST A YEAR AGO...


HAHH, ALREADY OUR JUNIOR YEAR, HUH~
THINK ABOUT WHAT? YOU KNOW WE'RE ALL GONNA END UP GOING TO THE COLLEGE AFFILIATED WITH OUR SCHOOL.
NEED TO START THINKING ABOUT OUR FUTURES AND STUFF
YEAH, GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

THAT SAID, YOU NEVER HAD AN OUNCE OF INNOCENCE TO YOU THOUGH.
WHAT? I WAS THE DEFINITION OF INNOCENT.
GOOD ONE, YOU SHOULD BE A COMEDIAN

YOU SHOULD APPLY TO A COLLEGE WITH MORE GUYS IN IT!!
DON'T LET THOSE BOOBS OF YOURS GO TO WASTE!!
GET OFF ME, SLUT!!
MORNING~


NICE TO HAVE THE SAME HOMEROOM TEACHER, TOO.
YEAH, I WAS WORRIED THEY'D PUT YUU SOMEWHERE ELSE 'CAUSE HE'S SO WISHY-WASHY.
!!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO GRINNING FOR!?
ニヤ
ニヤ
MORNING~
IT'S NICE TO ALL BE IN THE SAME CLASS AGAIN~

IT REALLY IS NICE WE ALL GET TO STAY TOGETHER THOUGH,
ISN'T IT, HARUKA -CHAN?
YEAH.

[CHAPTER 21] THE LAW OF CONSERVATION OF HAPPINESS

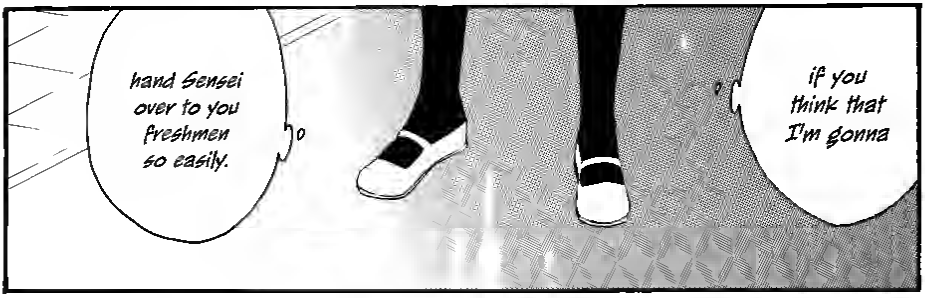
SENSEI, WHICH CLUB ARE YOU GONNA BE THE ADVISOR FOR?
I'M JUST A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER, I...
THAT PISSES ME OFF.

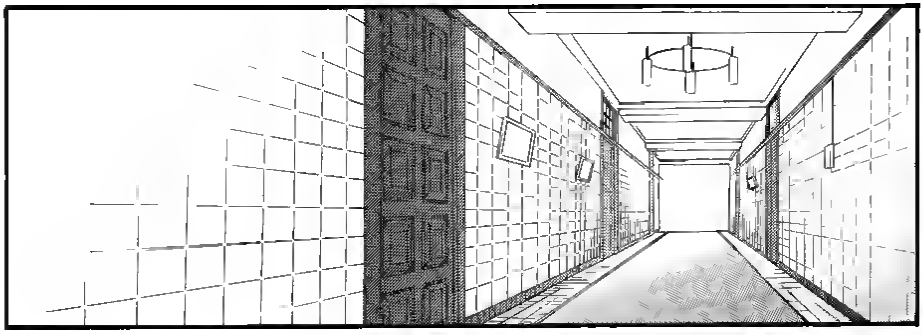
I MEAN, I AGREE HE'S A GREAT GUY, BUT HE'S A TEACHER FOR CRYING OUT LOUD.
I SWEAR, THEY'RE LIKE BITCHES IN HEAT!!

I COULDN'T AGREE MORE.
THEY COME HERE FROM THE ATTACHED MIDDLE SCHOOL, DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT MEN,
AND THEY GO NUTS OVER THE FIRST GUY THEY FIND.

AND WHAT THE HELL IS WITH HIM!
QUIT CHECKING THEM OUT, DAMN IT!
In heat?
Huh?
IS HE REALLY CHECKING THEM OUT?
HE TOTALLY IS!!
IS IT LIKE THIS EVERY YEAR...?
Every year? What?
THIS IS A DANGEROUS SITUATION.
TOMONAGA ONLY CAME HERE LAST FALL.
IS IT JUST ME OR ARE WE TALKING ABOUT TWO DIFFERENT THINGS HERE?
COME ON HARUKA, ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU'RE OK WITH HIM CHECKING OUT ALL THOSE GIRLS?
WHAT!? NO WAY I'M OK WITH IT!!

GO ON HARUKA!! KICK SOME ASS!!
O... OKAY!
Anyway,
I'm pretty sure the freshmen will get bored sooner or later, but...
you're out of your mind


if you think that I'm gonna
hand Sensei over to you freshmen so easily.



So...

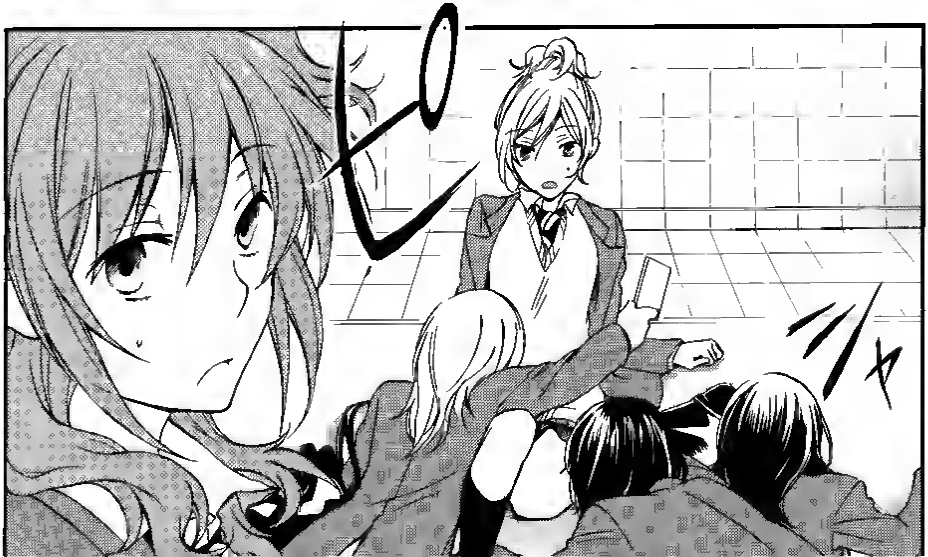
HEY!! KNOCK IT OFF YOU GIRLS!

Also,
it seems like Sensei is
getting near his limit, t...

how long is this gonna go on?
It's been like this ever since the school year started.
I really wanna ask him about some stuff...

UMM!! LIKE, DON'T BOTHER HIM!!
I-IF.. YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING IMPORTANT TO ASK ABOUT!!
WHO'RE YOU?
SERIOUSLY, WE WERE HERE FIRST.
AH!
SHE'S HARUKA KUSAKABE FROM "TEEN SISTER"!!
NO WAY!? FOR REAL!?
キャアア
I HEARD SHE WAS AT THIS SCHOOL, BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A RUMOR!!
EH?
EH?

HER FACE IS SO SMALL!!
SENPAI, CAN I TAKE A PICTURE?
SHE'S SO CUTE!
EH?
WAI-
NO FAI
ME TOO
Huh, guess her modeling work is going pretty well
That said,
GO DO THAT CRAP SOMEWHERE ELSE!!



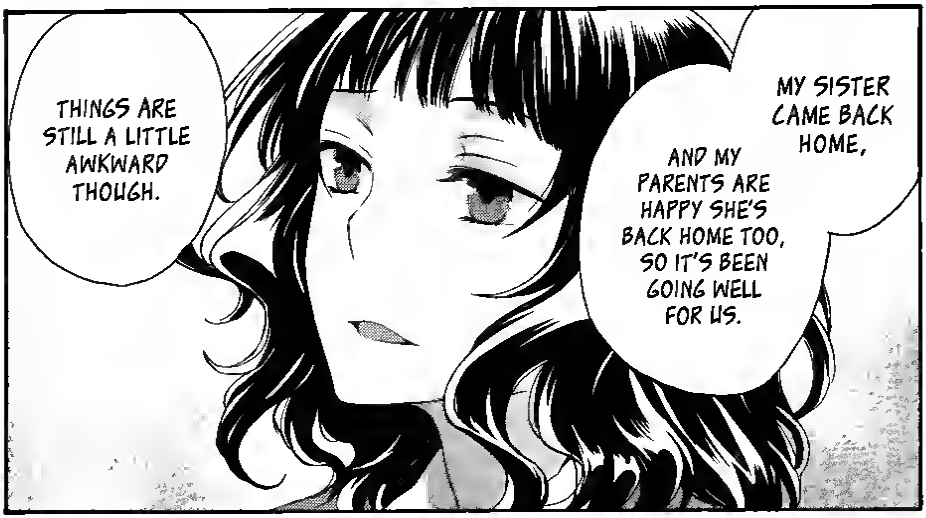
uu-
uu...

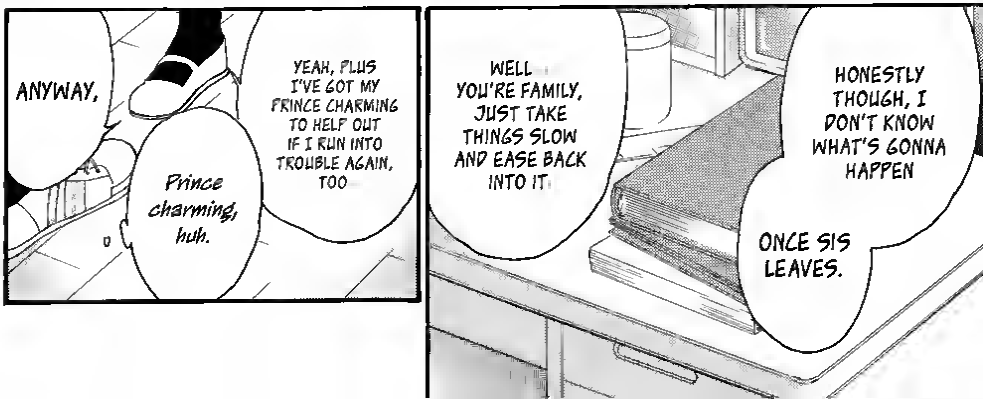
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO KICK ME OUT, TOO!!
YOU CAN COMPLAIN TO ME ON THE WAY HOME, OK?
CHEER UP, HARUKA.

Phew, I'm finally free...
This year's freshmen sure are aggressive.

JUST ONCE IS ENOUGH.
there was a pretty aggressive freshman last year, too...
ASE, NSEI.
Actually,
but she seems to be doing fine.
I'd been keeping an eye on her since then,
OH, HEY TOHNO.
ONODA -SENSEI!!
Not that I'm complaining, I'm glad she's OK.

HOW'VE YOU BEEN DOING SINCE THEN?
YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME?
W...WELL, YEAH.
I SEE~♥


MY SISTER CAME BACK HOME,
AND MY PARENTS ARE HAPPY SHE'S BACK HOME TOO, SO IT'S BEEN GOING WELL FOR US.
THINGS ARE STILL A LITTLE AWKWARD THOUGH.


HONESTLY THOUGH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN
ONCE SIS LEAVES.
WELL YOU'RE FAMILY, JUST TAKE THINGS SLOW AND EASE BACK INTO IT.
YEAH, PLUS I'VE GOT MY PRINCE CHARMING TO HELP OUT IF I RUN INTO TROUBLE AGAIN, TOO
Prince charming, huh.
ANYWAY,

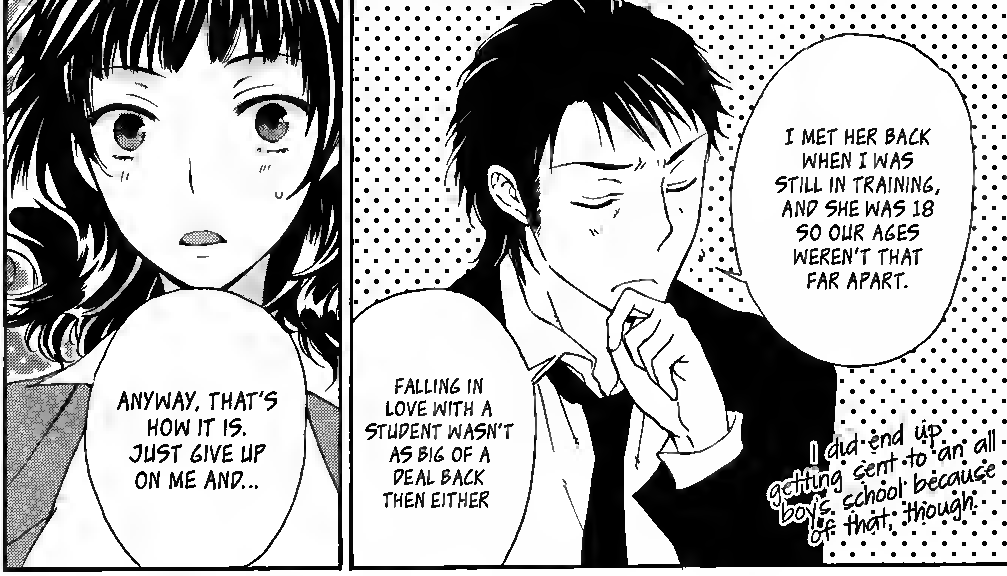
I SAW YOU CHECKING OUT THE FRESHMEN EARLIER.
WHA-
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS CHECKING THEM OUT OR ANYTHING!
AND HERE I WAS TRYING TO KEEP YOU OUT OF TROUBLE BY PRETENDING TO IGNORE YOU AT SCHOOL!
IT'S NOT FAIR!!
OTHER STUFF ASIDE, PLEASE, KEEP ON PRETENDING!!
HONESTLY, HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU I LOVE YOU...

YOU WERE JUST LACKING LOVE AND AFFECTION FROM YOUR FAMILY.
THE ONLY REASON YOU SAY YOU LOVE ME IS PROBABLY JUST BECAUSE YOU NEVER HAD A FATHER FIGURE TO RELY ON.
ONCE YOU GRADUATE AND FIND A NICE YOUNG GUY TO BE WITH,
YOU'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT HAVING EVER BEEN IN LOVE WITH AN OLD FART LIKE ME.
.....
I COULD NEVER FORGET YOU.

I'VE NEVER LOVED SOMEONE AS MUCH AS YOU,
AND NO OTHER GUY HAS EVER CARED ABOUT ME AS MUCH AS YOU HAVE.
SO DON'T THINK FOR A SECOND,
THAT I WILL EVER FORGET ABOUT YOU.

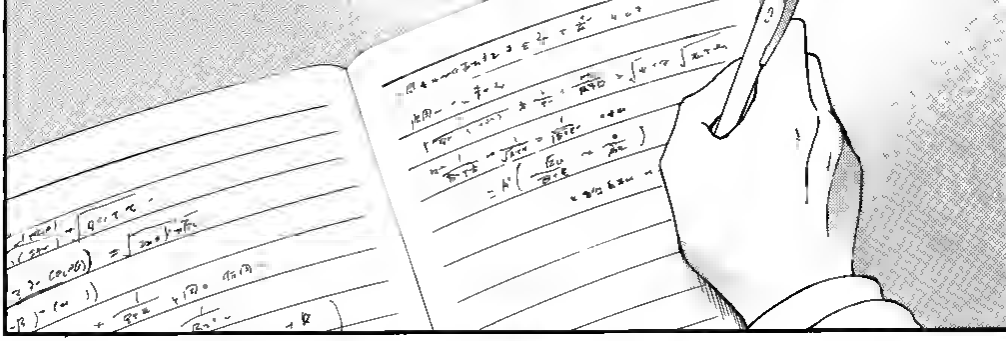
EVEN SO, PEOPLE'S FEELINGS ARE FICKLE THINGS.
BESIDES,
.....

.....
I TOLD MYSELF I'D NEVER BE WITH A STUDENT AG...
Crap
HUH?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY!?
HOLD ON A SEC!!
AS IF I COULD DO THAT!!
JUST FORGET ABOUT IT!
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING! YOU'RE HEARING THINGS!
MY EX-WIFE,
WAS ONE OF MY STUDENTS.
Hahhh...

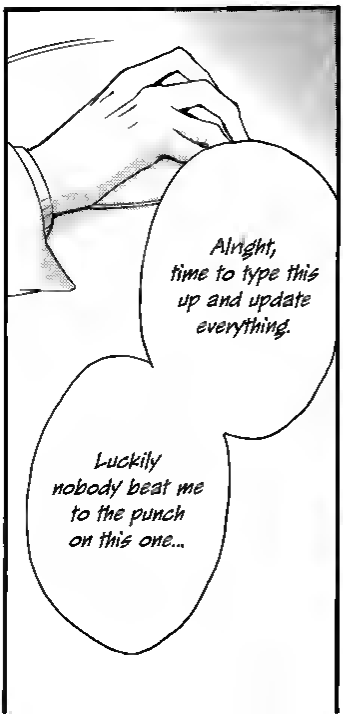

I MET HER BACK WHEN I WAS STILL IN TRAINING, AND SHE WAS 18 SO OUR AGES WEREN'T THAT FAR APART.
FALLING IN LOVE WITH A STUDENT WASN'T AS BIG OF A DEAL BACK THEN EITHER
I did end up getting sent to an all boy's school because of that, though.
ANYWAY, THAT'S HOW IT IS. JUST GIVE UP ON ME AND...

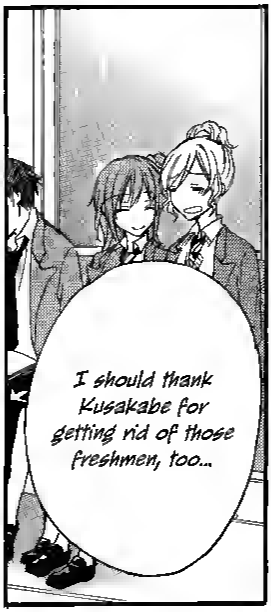
WHAT THE HECK!?
ISN'T THAT UNFAIR TO ME!?
NO, IT'S NOT!
IF YOU REALLY INSIST, WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE 20 AND ASK ME AGAIN
SEE YA.
ペたん.

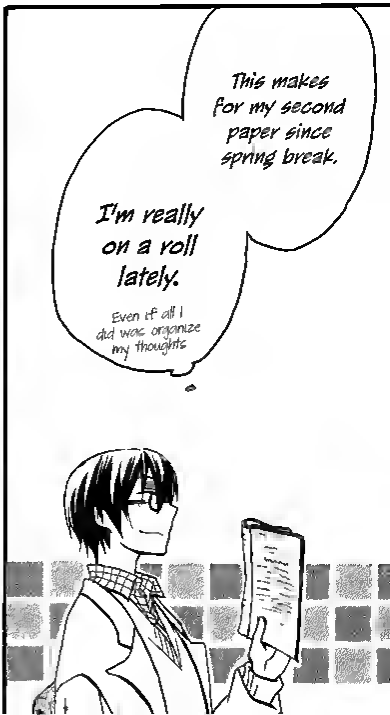
Sheesh,
Sensei.
Sensei.
what the heck am I doing?

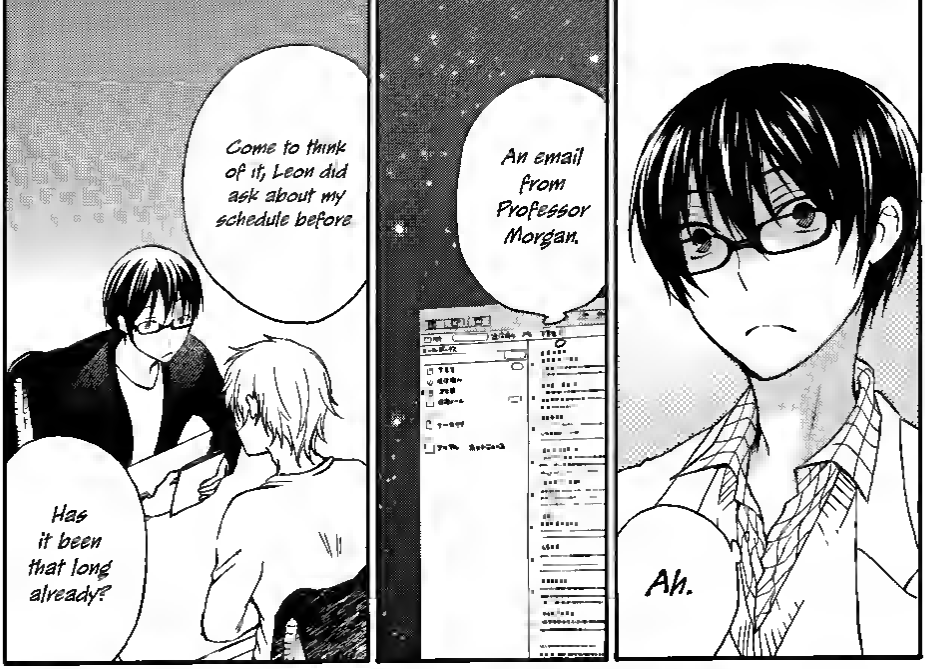


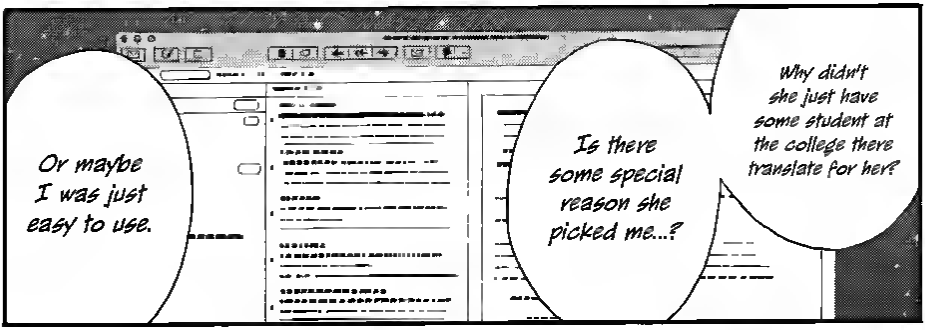
Nice.


Alright, time to type this up and update everything.
Luckily nobody beat me to the punch on this one...


I should thank Kusakabe for getting rid of those freshmen, too...


This makes for my second paper since spring break.
I'm really on a roll lately.
Even if all I did was organize my thoughts

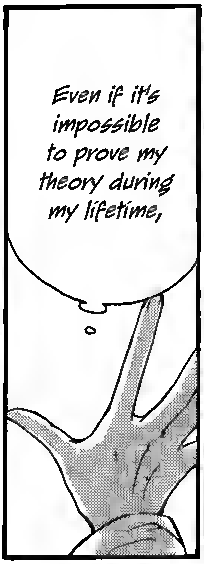

Come to think of it, Leon did ask about my schedule before
Has it been that long already?
An email from Professor Morgan.
Ah.


Or maybe I was just easy to use.
Is there some special reason she picked me...?
Why didn't she just have some student at the college there translate for her?

Man, I really wanna get back to full-time researching.
This place isn't half bad, but still...

I thought it was weird Leon came out to Japan before, too.

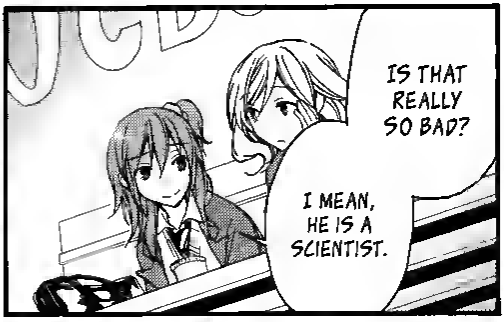
I might be regretting my earlier decision.



Is it too egotistical of me to ask for that much?
ダイア街
mini mini

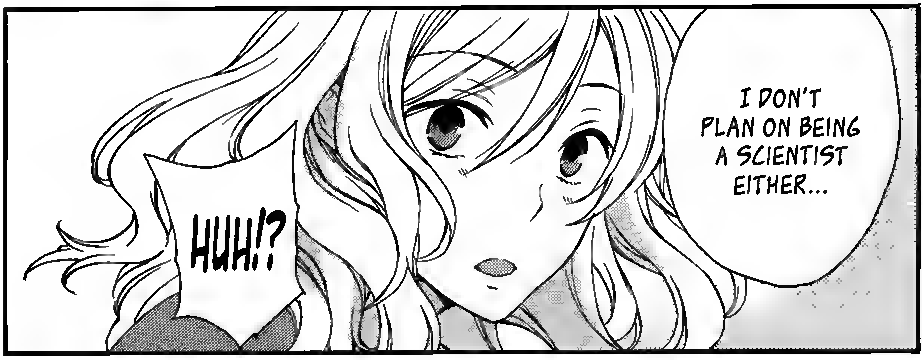
IT'S ALWAYS RESEARCH THIS, RESEARCH THAT.
I CAN'T HELP BUT GET WORRIED.
IT'S LIKE HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN ME AT ALL.

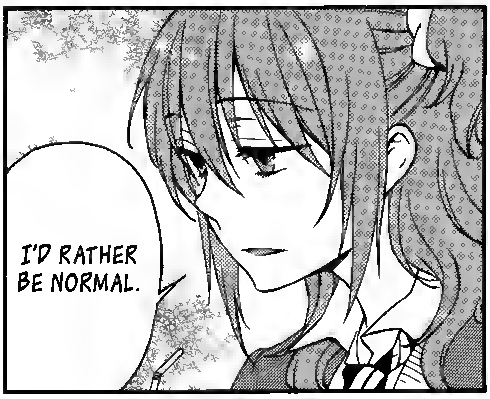
HE REALLY CARES ABOUT HIS RESEARCH
EVEN IF YOU MADE HIM CHOOSE BETWEEN LOVE AND HIS RESEARCH,
I BET HE'D END UP PICKING HIS RESEARCH

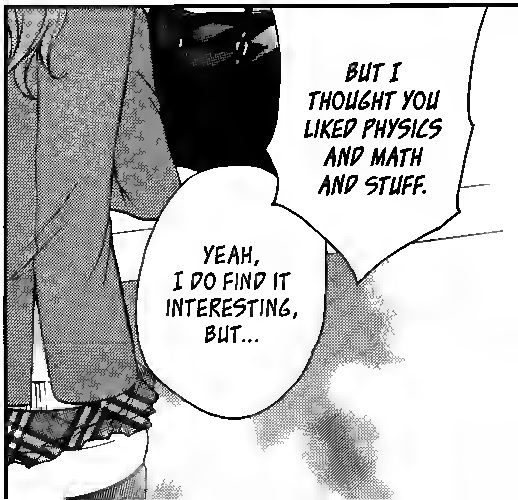

IS THAT REALLY SO BAD?
I MEAN, HE IS A SCIENTIST.

HMM, I DON'T REALLY
KNOW MUCH ABOUT LOVE YET.

IS THAT HOW YOU THINK TOO?
HUH? ME?


I DON'T PLAN ON BEING A SCIENTIST EITHER...
HUH!?


I'D RATHER BE NORMAL.


BUT I THOUGHT YOU LIKED PHYSICS AND MATH AND STUFF.
YEAH, I DO FIND IT INTERESTING, BUT...

I'M NOT SMART, AND ALL I KNOW IS THAT I LIKE FASHION,
SO MODELING IS REALLY ALL I CAN DO, BUT...
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST PUT YOUR SMARTS TO USE DOING SOMETHING YOU LIKE...
EHHHH
ISN'T THAT A WASTE THOUGH!? YOU COULD DO SO MUCH WITH HOW SMART YOU ARE!!
NO WAY, NO WAY.
You don't need to yell so loud

I WISH I HAD THE ABILITY TO SEE THE SAME THINGS AS TOMONAGA LIKE YOU DO
IT'S NOT FAIR
YOU'RE CUTE, AND PRETTY. IT'S A PERFECT FIT FOR YOU.
AND I THINK THAT'S A GREAT THING FOR YOU TO HAVE.

IT'S NOT FAIR.

HARUKA -CHAN'S CRYING?
I MADE HER CRY!?
W-WHAT'S WRONG HARUKA -CHAN!?
WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID!?
THE OTHER DAY... MY MODEL FRIENDS TOLD ME TO GIVE UP ON TOMONAGA
THEY SAID I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE...

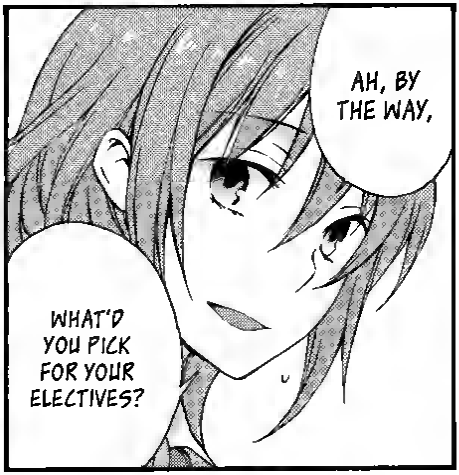
I WISH I WAS LIKE YOU...
THEN I'D BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT TOMONAGA'S THINKING.

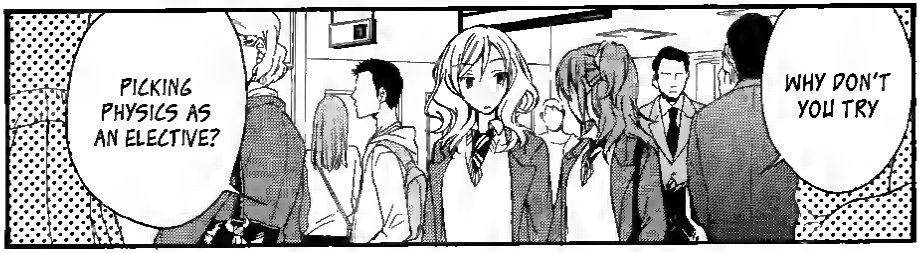
I'm the same.
.....

I wish I was more like you too, Haruka-chan.

445
ハイクラル
ユザワヤ
東京ル

I DUNNO.. I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO DO.
IN THAT CASE,


AH, BY THE WAY,
WHAT'D YOU PICK FOR YOUR ELECTIVES?


PICKING PHYSICS AS AN ELECTIVE?
WHY DON'T YOU TRY

AND YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND A LITTLE BIT OF TOMONAGA-SENSEI'S WORLD, TOO.
I CAN HELP YOU WITH ANYTHING YOU DON'T GET,

YEAH.
I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT.
THANKS, AOI.

a method to make
the world

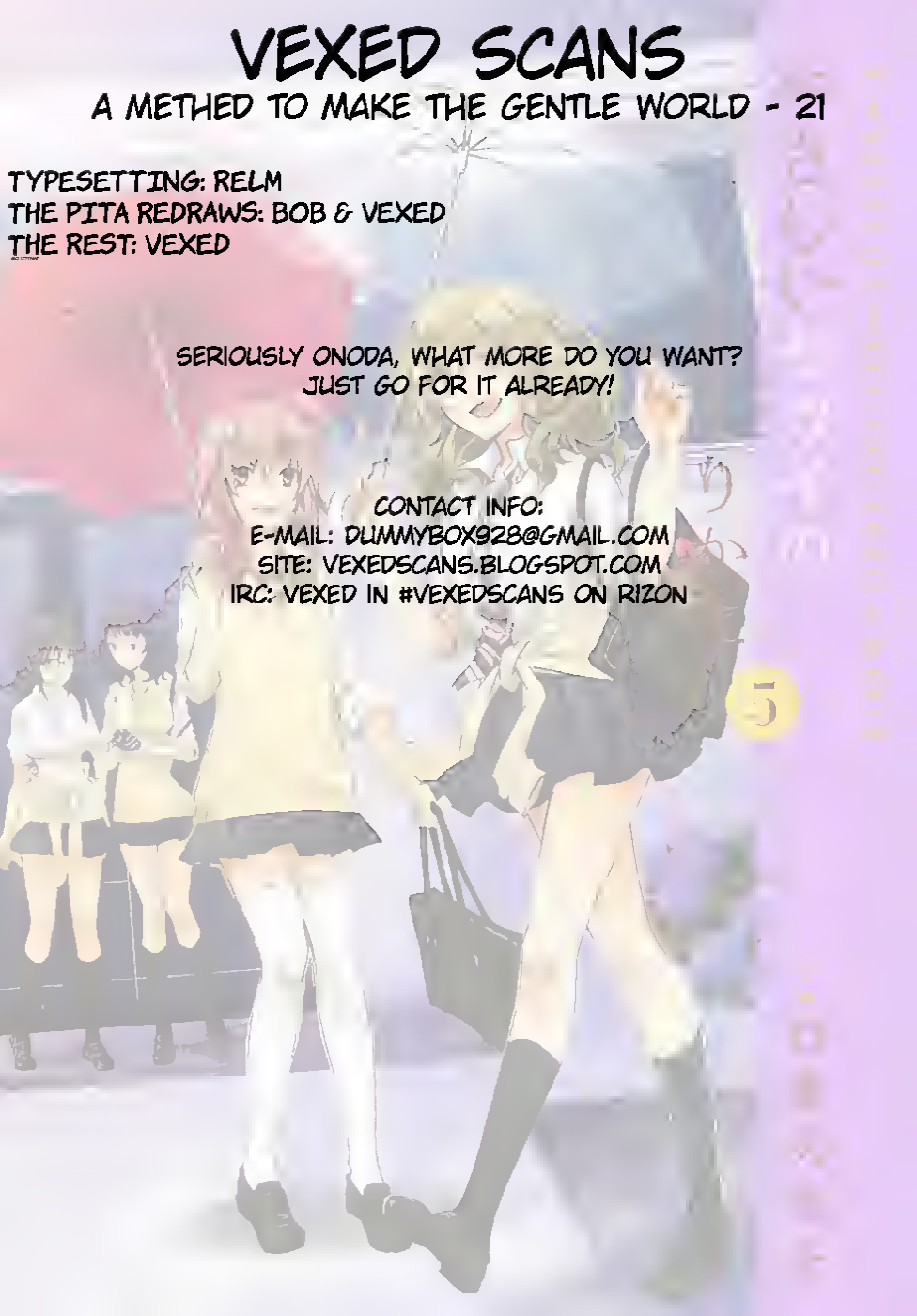
VEXED SCANS

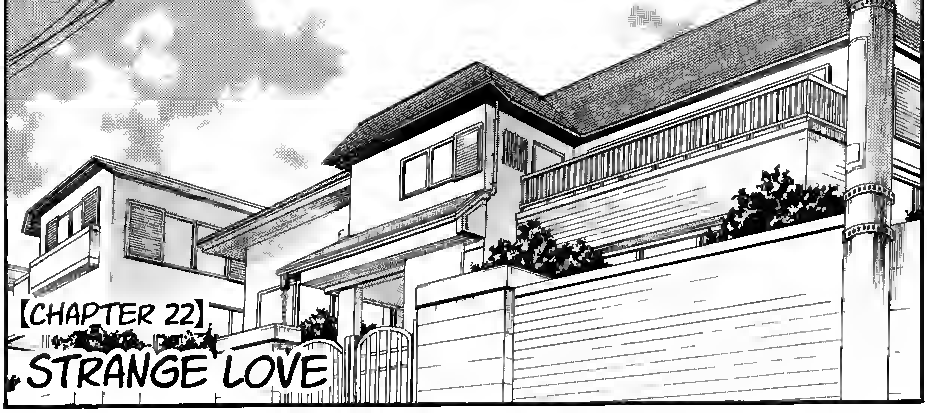
A METHED TO MAKE THE GENTLE WORLD - 21

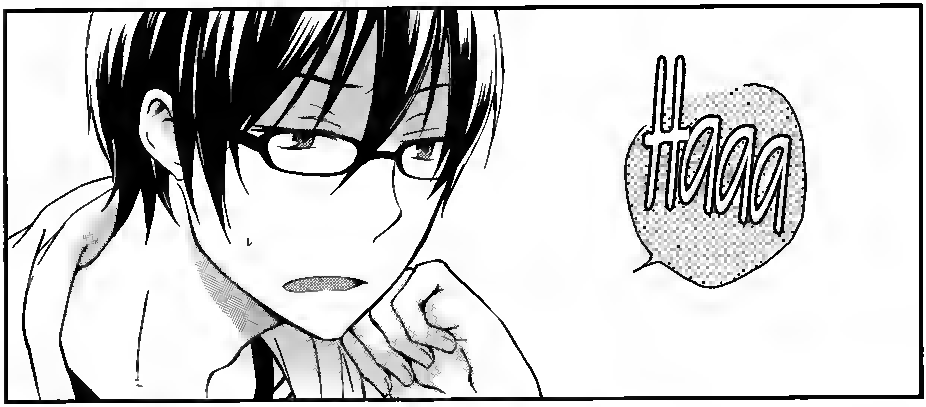
TYPESETTING: RELM
THE PITA REDRAWS: BOB & VEXED
THE REST: VEXED

SERIOUSLY ONODA, WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?
JUST GO FOR IT ALREADY!

CONTACT INFO:
E-MAIL: DUMMYBOX928@GMAIL.COM
SITE: VEXEDSCANS.BLOGSPOT.COM
IRC: VEXED IN #VEXEDSCANS ON RIZON




【CHAPTER 22】
STRANGE LOVE


Haaa

HEY, MEGURU.
WHAT?
IS IT JUST ME OR HAS HE BEEN WEIRD LATELY?
……

IT'S LIKE HE'S ALWAYS SPACING OUT.
HE'S BEEN THAT WAY EVER SINCE HE WENT TO AMERICA, WHAT ELSE IS NEW?
IT'S ONLY NATURAL, AFTER ALL THAT PROFESSOR GUY...
NOT THAT!!

I KNOW ABOUT THAT!!
I SWEAR, YOU'RE SO DUMB SOMETIMES!
WHAT WAS THAT!?
JUST LISTEN!

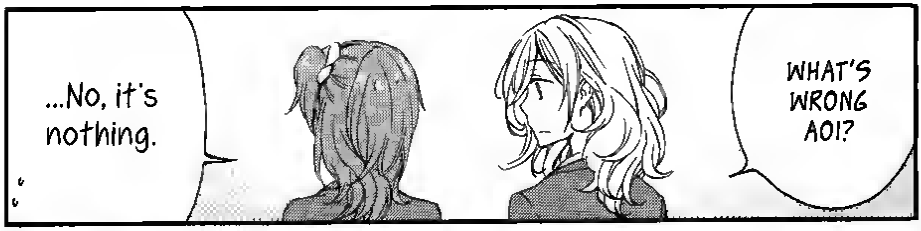
I THINK
THAT HE MIGHT'VE GOTTEN A GIRLFRIEND!

A WEIRDO LIKE HIM?
YEAH.
NO WAY.
IF YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT ME IT'D MAKE SENSE,
I actually had a girlfriend up until recently
BUT THERE'S NO WAY THAT BUMP ON A LOG COULD EVER...
IT'S MY WOMAN'S INSTINCT.
WHAT?! I KNOW YOU LOVE HIM TOO!
LIKE HELL I DO!!
LOOK, YOU CAN HAVE AS MANY MADE-UP ENEMIES AS YOU WANT,
But who? And when? And where!?
BUT YOU SERIOUSLY NEED TO QUIT BEING SO IN LOVE WITH THAT BROTHER OF OURS.
ゴゴゴゴゴ...

FOR EXAMPLE, SUPPOSE WE WERE TO PLACE A 5.0 KG BLOCK,
ONTO A PLANE THAT IS INCLINED AT A 30 DEGREE ANGLE.
THEN SUPPOSE WE WERE TO ATTACH A STRING TO THE BLOCK, PULLING IN A DIRECTION PARALLEL TO THE PLANE
30°
THUS MOVING THE BLOCK UP THE PLANE.
WE WILL ASSUME THE FORCE OF GRAVITY IS 9.8 M/S²
IF THE FORCE BEING APPLIED VIA THE STRING IS EQUAL TO 40 N, THEN—

TOMONAGA ACTUALLY LOOKS PRETTY COOL WHEN HE'S TEACHING. DON'T YOU THINK?
NOPE, I'M DOING OKAY SO FAR.
WAS THERE ANYTHING YOU DIDN'T GET IN CLASS TODAY?
YEAH.
EEEK
EEEK
SPARTAN
Now if he'd just forget about Kayama-sensei everything would be...
Haruka-chan's managed to get pretty close to Sensei,
and she even gave him chocolate on Valentine's!!

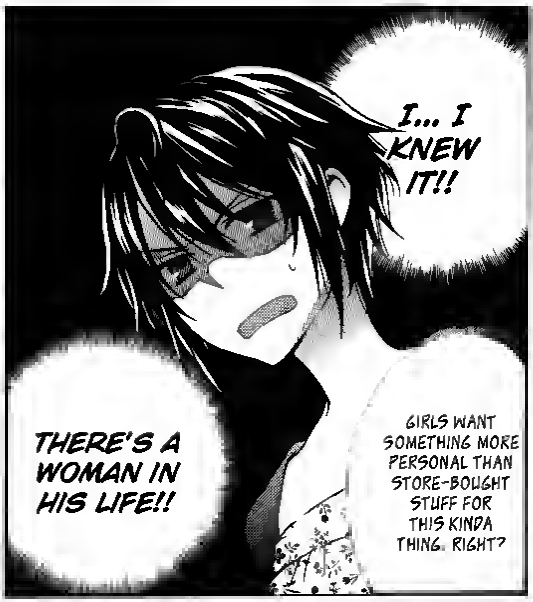
AH.


...No, it's nothing.
WHAT'S WRONG AOI?

I JUST THOUGHT OF IT...
BUT YOU NEVER GOT ME ANYTHING IN RETURN FOR VALENTINE'S DAY
!!
HM?
WHAT IS IT?
SENSEI.
Prep Room

AH, SORRY.
I WAS PRETTY BUSY WITH FINALS AROUND THEN...
YEAH, MAKES SENSE.
Was I right? Is Hirose really into me?
No, no way!
But still!!
BUT,
YOU COULD AT LEAST GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO THE GIRLS IN YOUR CLASS WHO GAVE YOU CHOCOLATE, DON'T YOU AGREE?
Forcing someone to give me something back for Valentine's is so awkward.
HRMM~
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING BIG,
BUT I'LL TRY TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING
I CAN'T WAIT!!
GOOD TO HEAR.

AH.
TAMAKI.
I don't know how to make sweets either.
That said,
I don't really have much money to spend on gifts right now.
Look, you can have as many made-up enemies as you want
but you seriously need to quit being so in love with that brother of ours.
WHAT?! I KNOW YOU LOVE HIM TOO!
LIKE HELL I DO!!
YOU'RE GOOD AT MAKING SWEETS, RIGHT?
YEAH.


I... I KNEW IT!!
THERE'S A WOMAN IN HIS LIFE!!
GIRLS WANT SOMETHING MORE PERSONAL THAN STORE-BOUGHT STUFF FOR THIS KINDA THING, RIGHT?

DO YOU KNOW OF ANYTHING,
THAT'S CHEAP AND EASY TO MAKE?
THIS GIRL'S BEEN BUGGING ME TO GET HER SOMETHING IN RETURN FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

WHO IS IT!? WHO'S THE WOMAN LEADING MY BROTHER ASTRAY!?
I doubt I'll be able to figure out who this (potential) girlfriend of his is, but still.
Hmm, how can I get in there?
BYE BYE, YURINE -CHAN
BYE, SEE YOU TOMORROW
OH, A STUDENT FROM KANJO?
DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?
HYA!

Crap.
A teacher found me... What do I do?
Umm
Better make some stuff up and get away fast.
Yeah
IT GOT REALLY BORING AFTER THAT PART~
WHY RUN AWAY AT THAT POINT?
WASN'T THAT TOTALLY STUPID?

HUH?

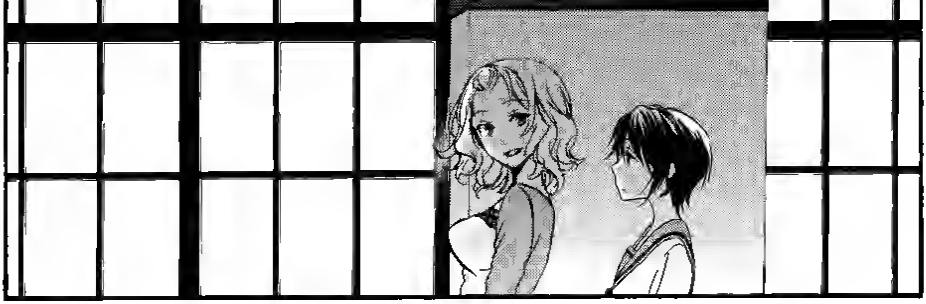
WHAT DO I DO!? I CAN'T MEET HIS LITTLE SISTER WITH MY MAKEUP LIKE THIS!!
AHHH
OH RIGHT, YOU NEVER SAW HER 'CAUSE YOU WERE GETTING CHANGED WHEN SHE CAME

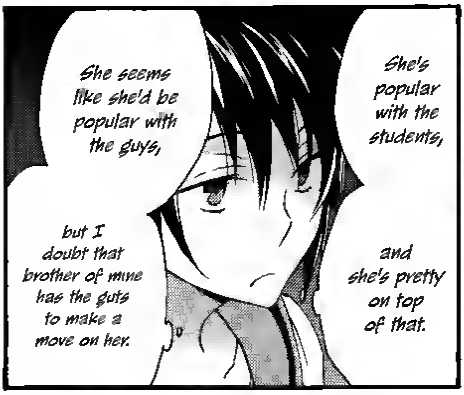
IT'S TOMONAGA'S LITTLE SISTER.
FOR REAL!?

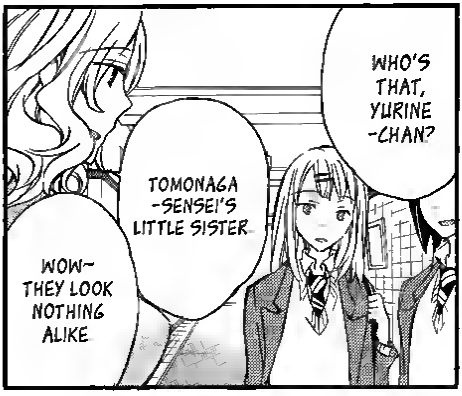
SHE'S TOMONAGA -SENSEI'S LITTLE SISTER.
HEY, HOW'S IT GOING YURINE-CHAN!
YOU JUST IGNORE ME!?
THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER MY BROTHER.
Why'd she go silent for a sec there?
NO NO, HE HELPS ME OUT QUITE A BIT TOO.
DID YOU COME HERE TO SEE HIM?
Ah
Yes.
I'll use that as my excuse.

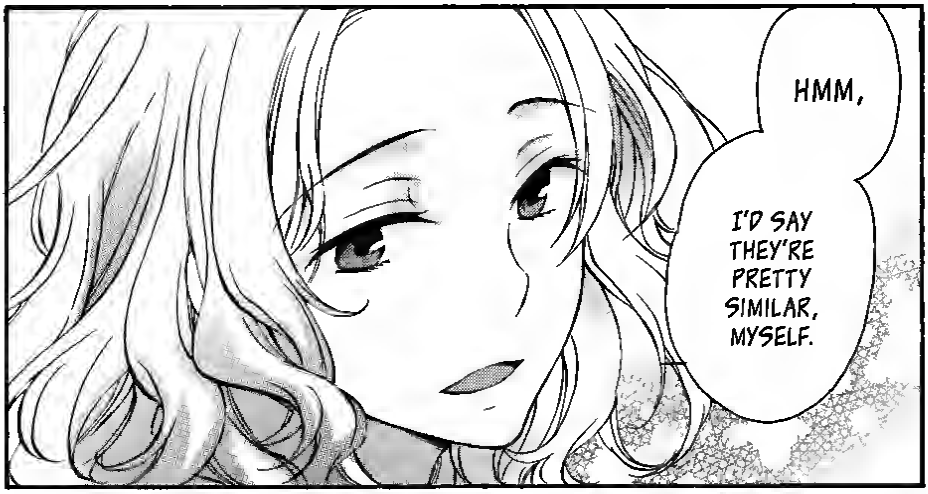
Trying to
AH, IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR TOMONAGA -SENSEI,
HE'S PROBABLY OVER IN THE PHYSICS PREP ROOM RIGHT NOW.
Find a way into the conversation

Looks like Tomonaga's little sister is headed your way (｡・ω・｡) I kinda let her know where he is too ＼(ごΔ;)／ Sorry!!
APPARENTLY YOUR LITTLE SISTER IS HERE TO SEE YOU




She's popular with the students,
and she's pretty on top of that.
She seems like she'd be popular with the guys,
but I doubt that brother of mine has the guts to make a move on her.


WHO'S THAT, YURINE -CHAN?
TOMONAGA -SENSEI'S LITTLE SISTER
WOW~ THEY LOOK NOTHING ALIKE


HMM,
I'D SAY THEY'RE PRETTY SIMILAR, MYSELF.

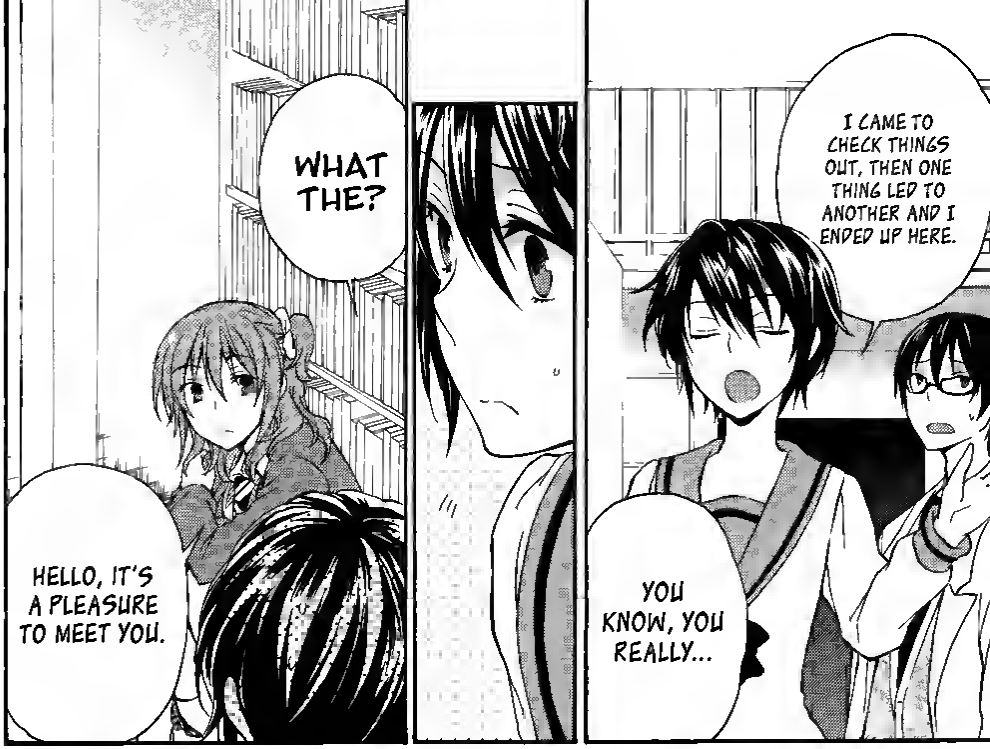
Yeah... She's way out of his league.

GO ON, FIND SOMEWHERE TO HIDE.
ONE SEC~
KNOCK KNOCK
WELL... YEAH.
this family is probably smart like he is so I guess it doesn't matter
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
So
Can we clean up quick enough?
JUST HIDE LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO.
YOU DON'T REALLY CARE IF MY LITTLE SISTER FINDS OUT ABOUT YOU ANYWAY, RIGHT?

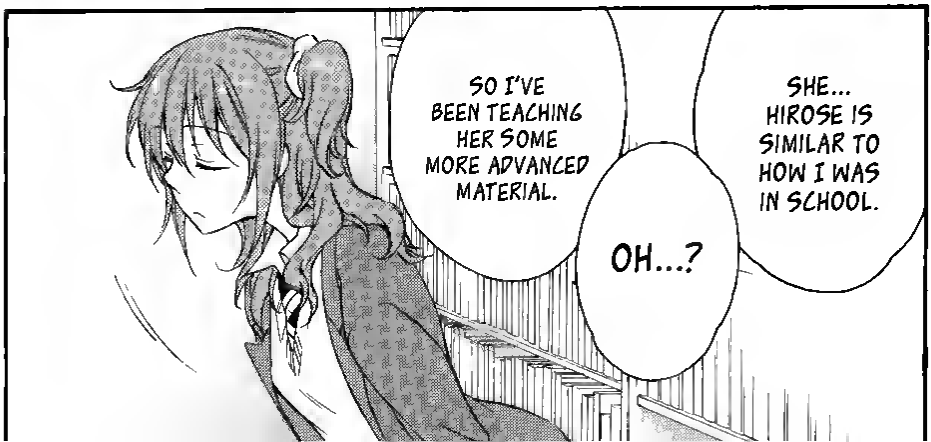
YOUR LITTLE SISTER CAME TO VISIT.
SO I HELPED BRING HER TO YOU.

...Huh?
SEE YOU LATER
I'LL BE GOING NOW
THANKS AGAIN.
THANKS FOR GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO HELP.
NO NO, IT'S FINE.

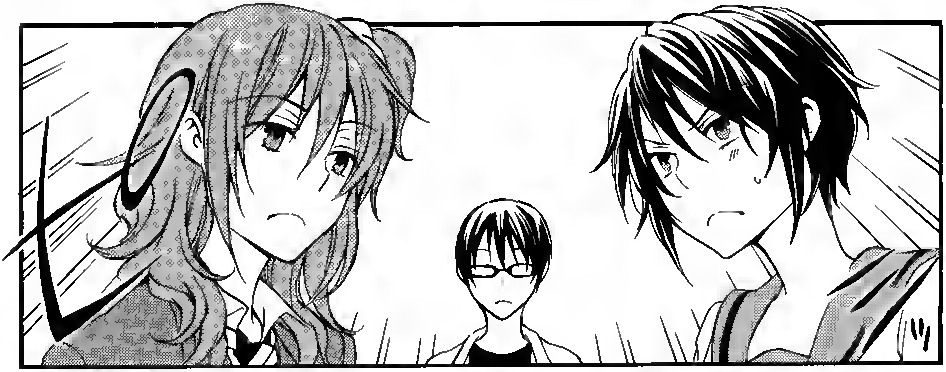
DID SOMETHING URGENT COME UP?
NOT REALLY.
Then why did you...
What was that?
HEY, TAMAKI!

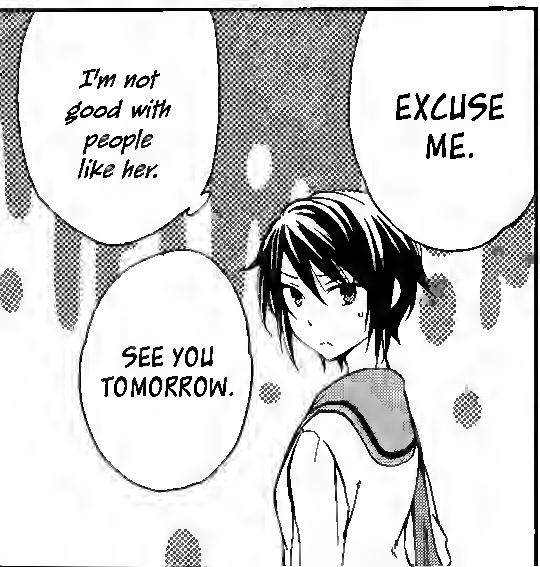

I CAME TO CHECK THINGS OUT, THEN ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER AND I ENDED UP HERE.
YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY...
WHAT THE?
HELLO, IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

AHH, I'VE BEEN GIVING HER SPECIAL LESSONS IN MY FREE TIME.
WHAT KIND OF "SPECIAL" LESSONS!?
RELAX, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT BETWEEN YOUR BROTHER AND I.


SHE... HIROSE IS SIMILAR TO HOW I WAS IN SCHOOL.
OH...?
SO I'VE BEEN TEACHING HER SOME MORE ADVANCED MATERIAL.

IT'S COMPLICATED, OKAY?
NOT EVERYBODY IS BLESSED WITH THE FREEDOM TO DO WHAT THEY WANT.
COULDN'T YOU HAVE GONE TO A BETTER SCHOOL THAN THIS THEN?
WHY'D YOU CHOOSE TO GO TO A LOWER-LEVEL PLACE LIKE THIS?




I'm not good with people like her.
EXCUSE ME.
SEE YOU TOMORROW.

I'M GONNA GO HOME, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET ANY STUDYING DONE TODAY
OH?
OKAY, IF YOU SAY SO.

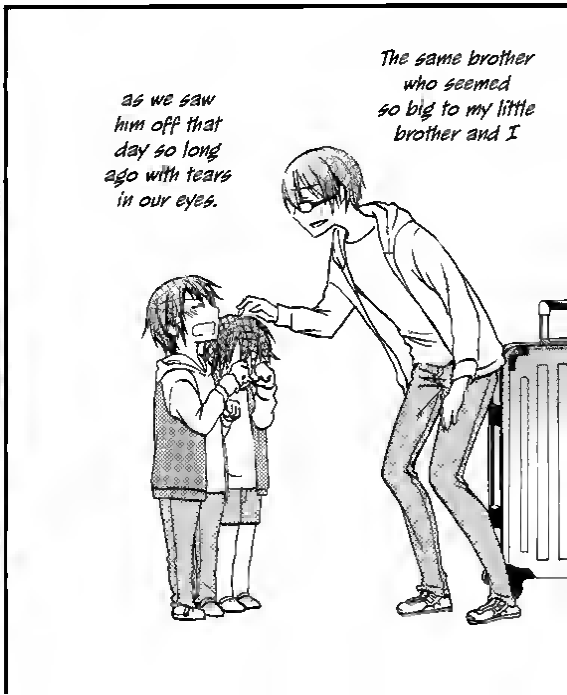
HERE, DRINK THIS AND THEN GO HOME, OK?
Careful, it's hot
THANKS.
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WORK.
HM? YEAH.
I ONLY GOT TO SEE YOUR CLASSROOM DURING THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL,
SO I WAS KINDA CURIOUS WHERE YOU DID YOUR RESEARCH NOW.

YOU TEND TO KEEP ON GOING AHEAD ALL BY YOURSELF,
WHICH MAKES IT HARD FOR EVEN MEGURU AND I TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
AHH... YEAH, SORRY.
IT'S FINE, IT'S ONE OF YOUR GOOD POINTS TOO.
YOU DON'T PLAN TO STAY HERE LONG THOUGH, DO YOU?
THAT'S THE PLAN,
BUT I'M NOT SO SURE.
WOW, HARDLY EVER SEE YOU MOPING LIKE THIS
HAHA, YEAH YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT...

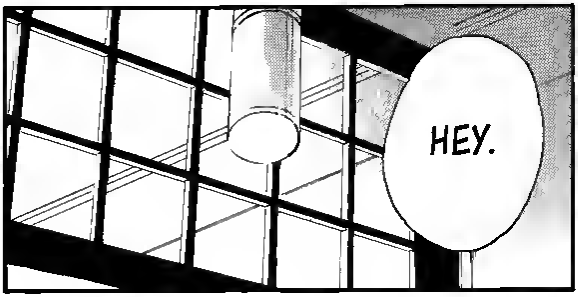
UNLIKE MATH, THERE'S NO FORMULA FOR THE RIGHT ANSWER IN LIFE,
It really is rare to see him like this.
SO I FIND MYSELF LOST QUITE OFTEN LATELY.

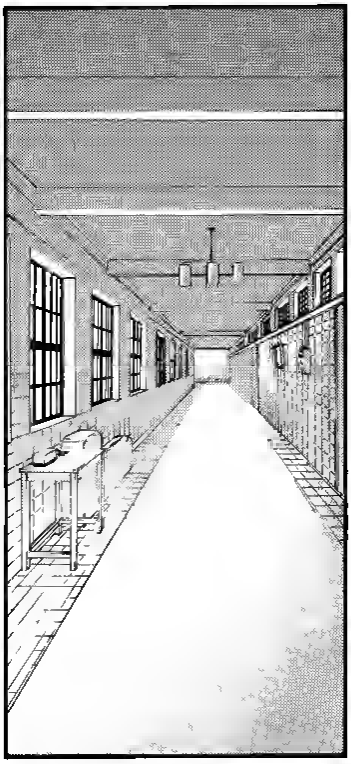
My brother, who never once lost his way ever since he was a kid,
is lost for the first time.

I feel so relieved now.
IT'LL BE OKAY.


The same brother who seemed so big to my little brother and I
as we saw him off that day so long ago with tears in our eyes.

It's good to know my brother wavers sometimes just like everyone else.
YOU'RE MY BIG BROTHER, I KNOW YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT.

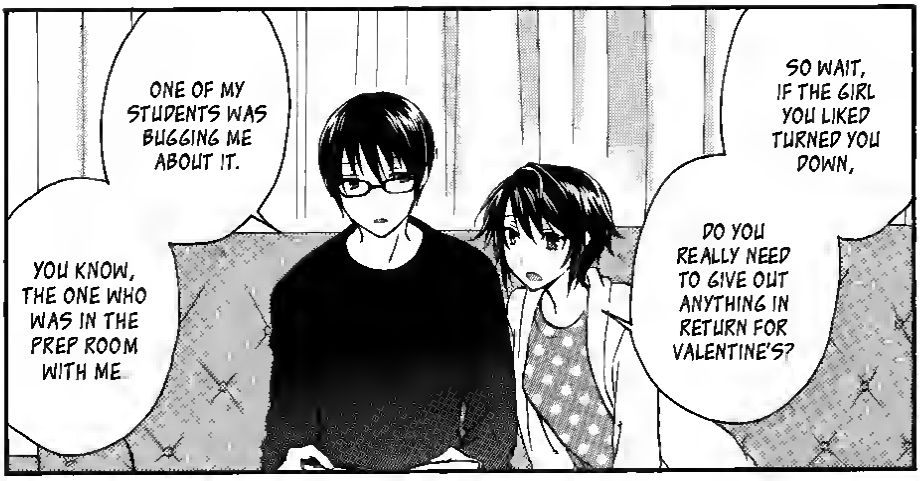

HEY.



HM?
THAT TEACHER WHO I WAS WITH BEFORE IS THE GIRL YOU LIKE, ISN'T SHE?
!?

AHH... NO.
I LIKED HER, BUT SHE TURNED ME DOWN.
EVEN AFTER ALL THAT,
SHE CAN STILL ACT FINE, LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED.
YOU ASKED HER OUT? FOR REAL!?
I DID.
WOMEN REALLY ARE SOMETHING THOUGH.

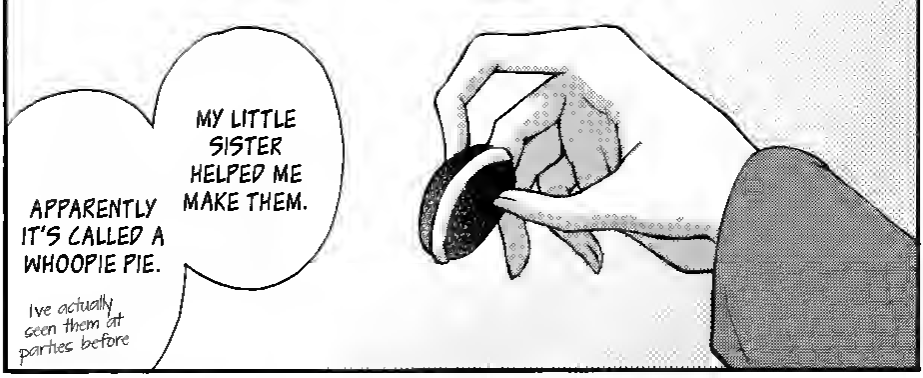
At least, from my point of view,
that teacher didn't seem as "fine" as my brother thinks she is.
I'm not so sure about that.
so I decided to keep that observation to myself.
But I got the feeling that my brother, who felt so close to me now, would go far away again if I told him that,
Muffins


ONE OF MY STUDENTS WAS BUGGING ME ABOUT IT.
YOU KNOW, THE ONE WHO WAS IN THE PREP ROOM WITH ME.
SO WAIT, IF THE GIRL YOU LIKED TURNED YOU DOWN,
DO YOU REALLY NEED TO GIVE OUT ANYTHING IN RETURN FOR VALENTINE'S?

I KNOW.
HMM, WHAT SHOULD I MAKE?
Ahh
THAT WOMAN.

HOW ABOUT YOU DO THIS?

HERE.
THIS IS MY THANKS FOR THE VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATE.
Prep Room
Wow
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, IT WAS OOKAWA, KUSAKABE,
AND TANAKA AND YAMASHITA WHO GAVE ME CHOCOLATE.
CAN I OPEN IT NOW?
SURE.
TELL THEM TO SNEAK OVER HERE LATER AND GET THEIRS TOO
OK!


MY LITTLE SISTER HELPED ME MAKE THEM.
APPARENTLY IT'S CALLED A WHOOPIE PIE.
I've actually seen them at parties before

SENSEI.
WHAT IS IT?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT GIVING A GIRL MARSHMALLOWS IN RETURN FOR VALENTINE'S DAY MEANS?
I HEARD THEY WERE ON TV TOO, AND THAT THEY'RE EASY TO MAKE WITH MARSHMALLOWS IN THE MIDDLE
MAKING THEM WAS PRETTY FUN, IT REMINDED ME OF THE EXPERIMENTS I DID IN SCHOOL.
.....

♪2
HUH? WHAT, IT HAS SOME SPECIAL MEANING?
Hahhh
I knew it...

Giving
marshmallo
on white
means I don
like you so
you should be
careful to
Ah
So this
is what she
meant

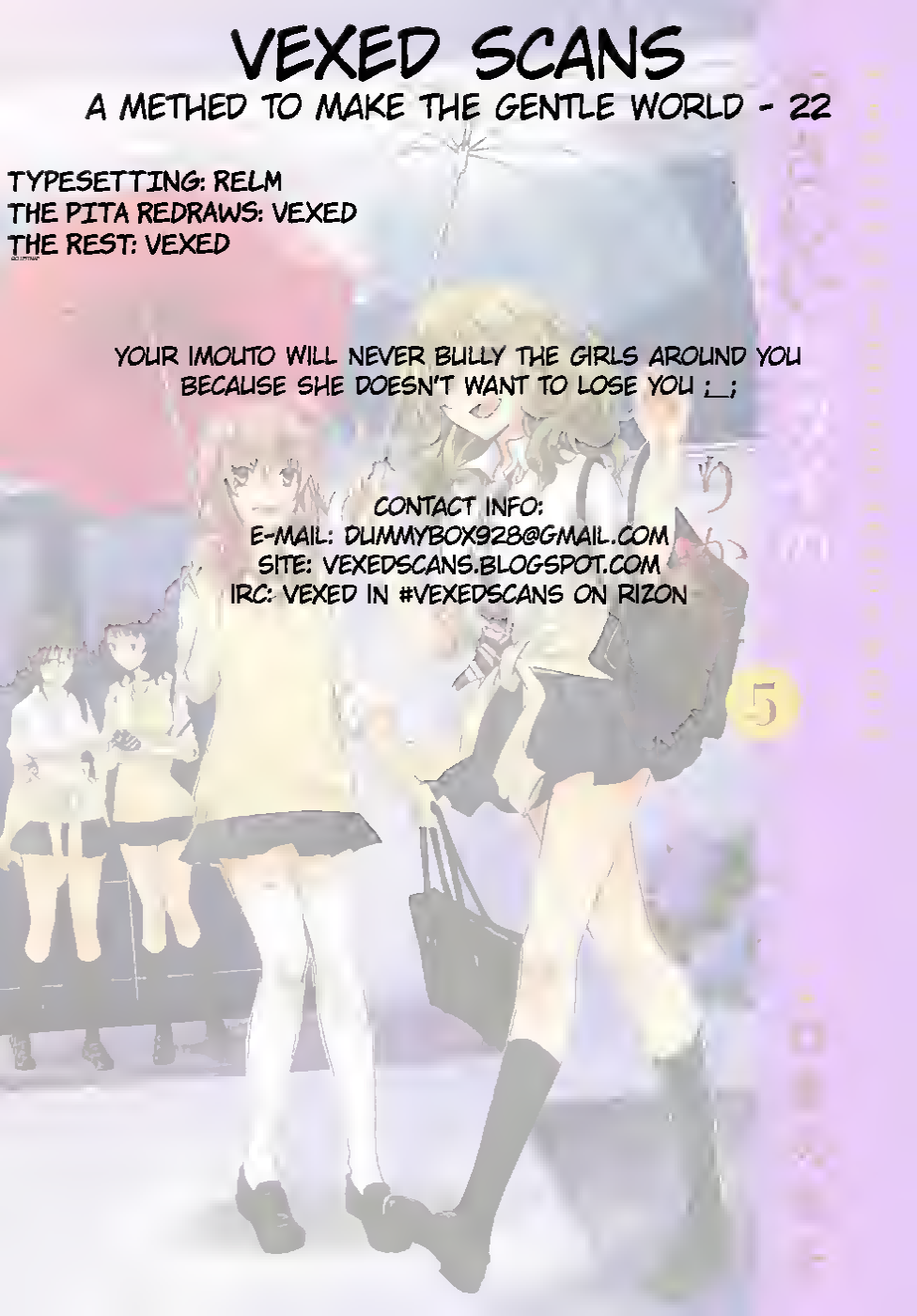
VEXED SCANS

A METHED TO MAKE THE GENTLE WORLD - 22

TYPESETTING: RELM
THE PITA REDRAWS: VEXED
THE REST: VEXED

YOUR IMOUTO WILL NEVER BULLY THE GIRLS AROUND YOU
BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO LOSE YOU ;_;

CONTACT INFO:
E-MAIL: DUMMYBOX928@GMAIL.COM
SITE: VEXEDSCANS.BLOGSPOT.COM
IRC: VEXED IN #VEXEDSCANS ON RIZON



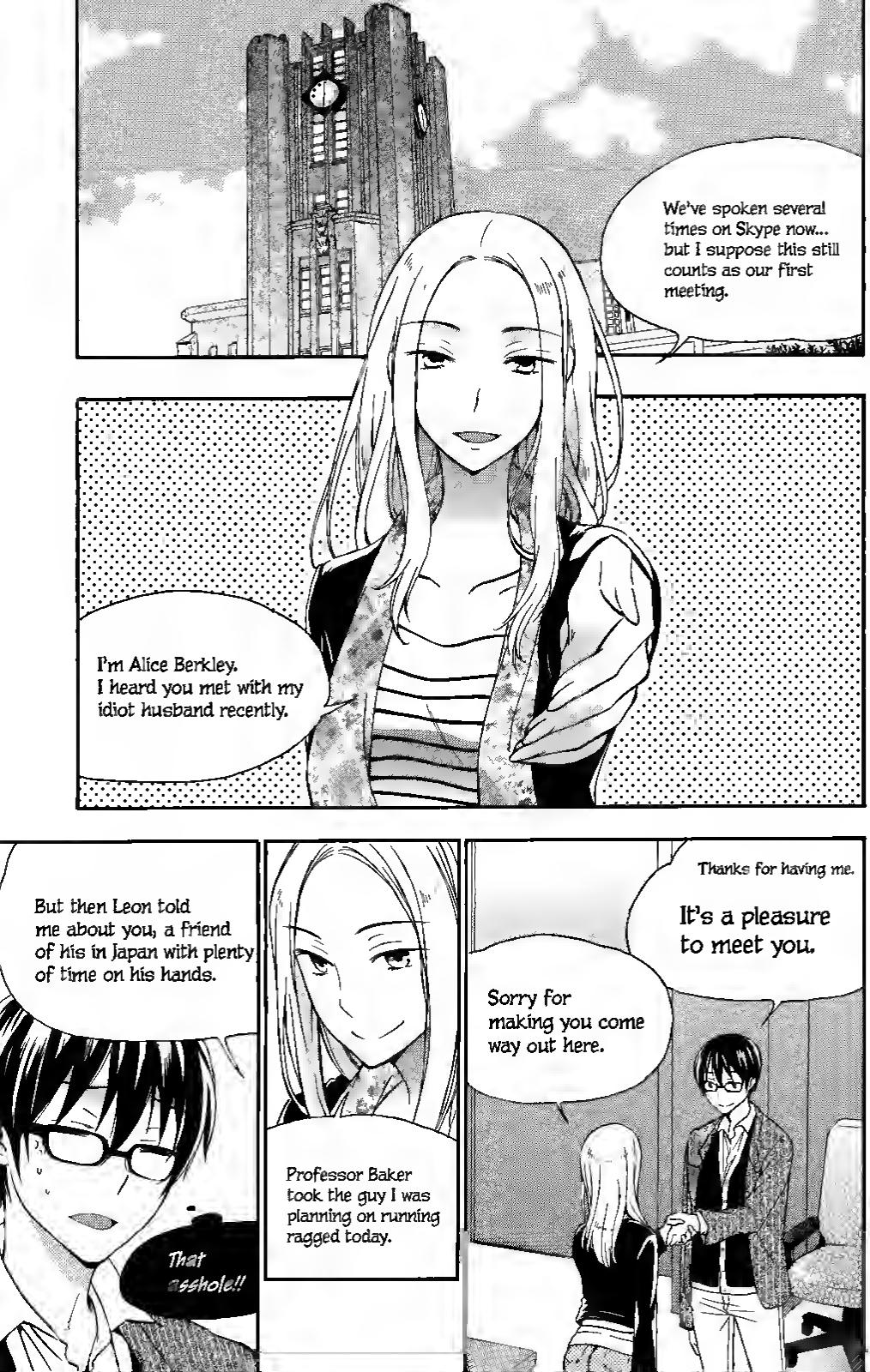
TOMONAGA-SENSEI IS ON BREAK TODAY.
SO I'LL BE TAKING HIS PLACE.
LET'S TAKE ATTENDANCE.
ADACHI.
HERE.

OOKAWA.
Ah
HERE~
HE SAID HE WAS HELPING OUT WITH A LECTURE A PROFESSOR FROM OVERSEAS IS GIVING.
OH, REALLY? COOL.

HEY HEY.
ENOMOTO.
HERE~
WHAT'S UP WITH TOMONAGA TODAY?

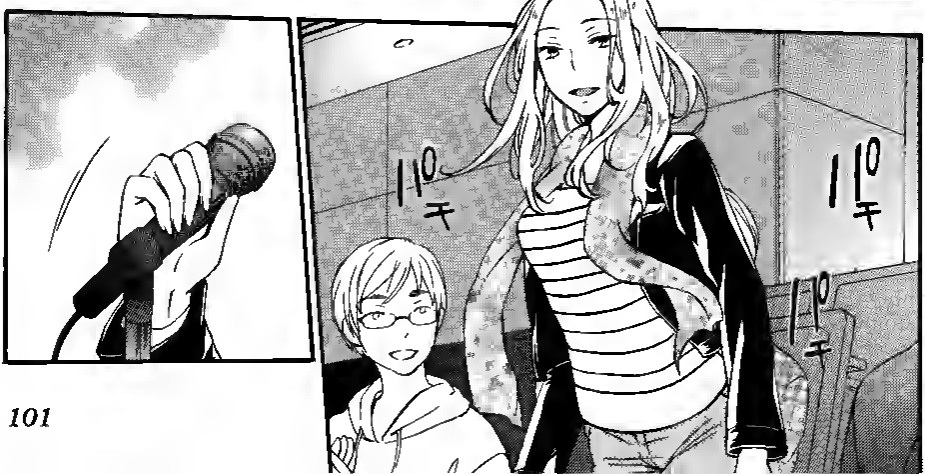
A lecture from a teacher at Stanford, huh.
I wish I coulda gone, too.

[CHAPTER 23] PHYSICIST IN WONDERLAND


We've spoken several times on Skype now... but I suppose this still counts as our first meeting.
I'm Alice Berkley. I heard you met with my idiot husband recently.
But then Leon told me about you, a friend of his in Japan with plenty of time on his hands.
That asshole!!
Professor Baker took the guy I was planning on running ragged today.
Thanks for having me.
It's a pleasure to meet you.
Sorry for making you come way out here.

There seems to be strong evidence supporting the model Ron Baker created based on your paper as well. I bet you'll get many research offers in the future.
There are many who doubt its credibility still... but it always takes a few years for a breakthrough to become widely accepted.
Your paper on Majorana particles and double beta decay in a grand unified theory was far above what I'd expect from a student.
It's not exactly a great replacement for an interview,
but I read some work you had published in the past.
...You're probably right.
That said, your last few papers were hard to look at.
Nobody's going to ever bother referencing those things.
So, um... what'd you decide after your "interview"?
I'd suggest you think about why I called you here today to find your answer.

Does that mean I passed?
EXCUSE ME.
IT'S ALMOST TIME TO START.
Professor, he says it's time to get ready.
Okay.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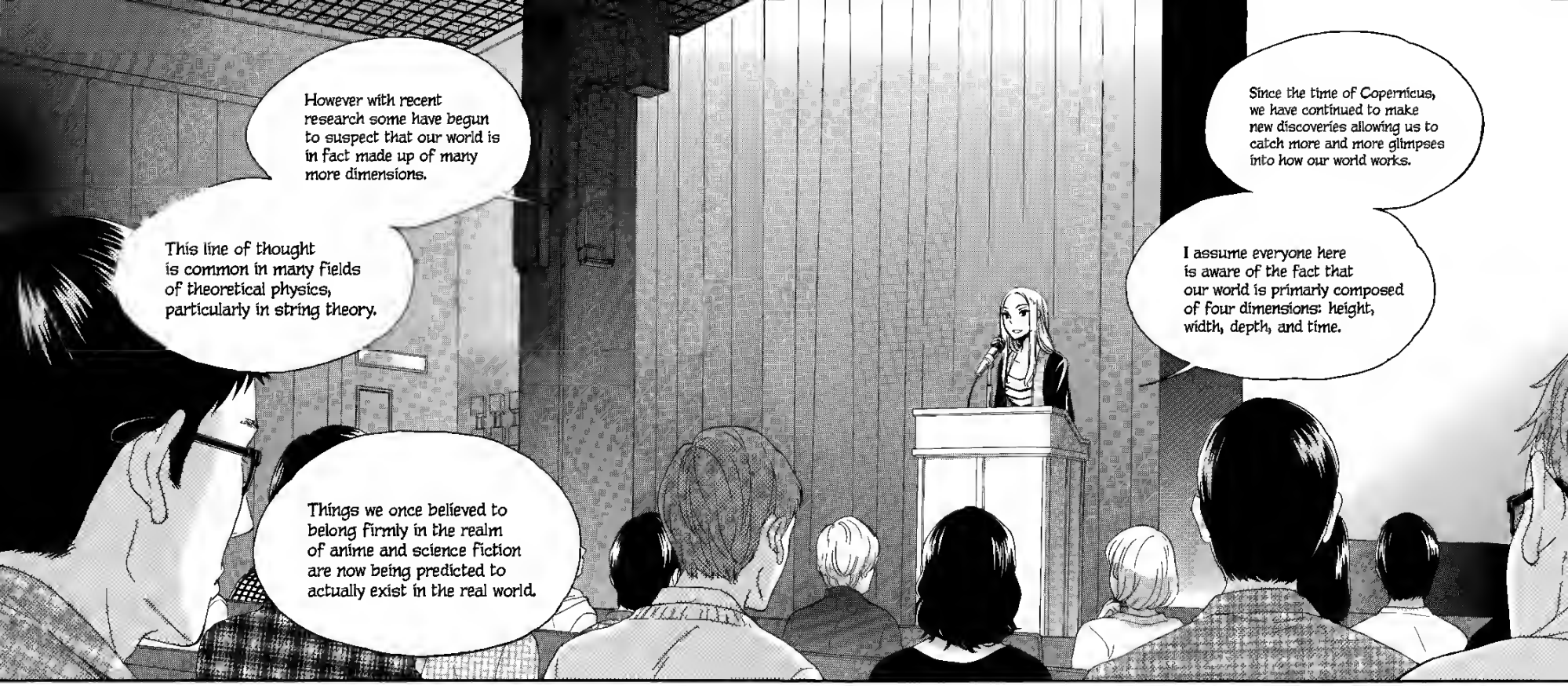
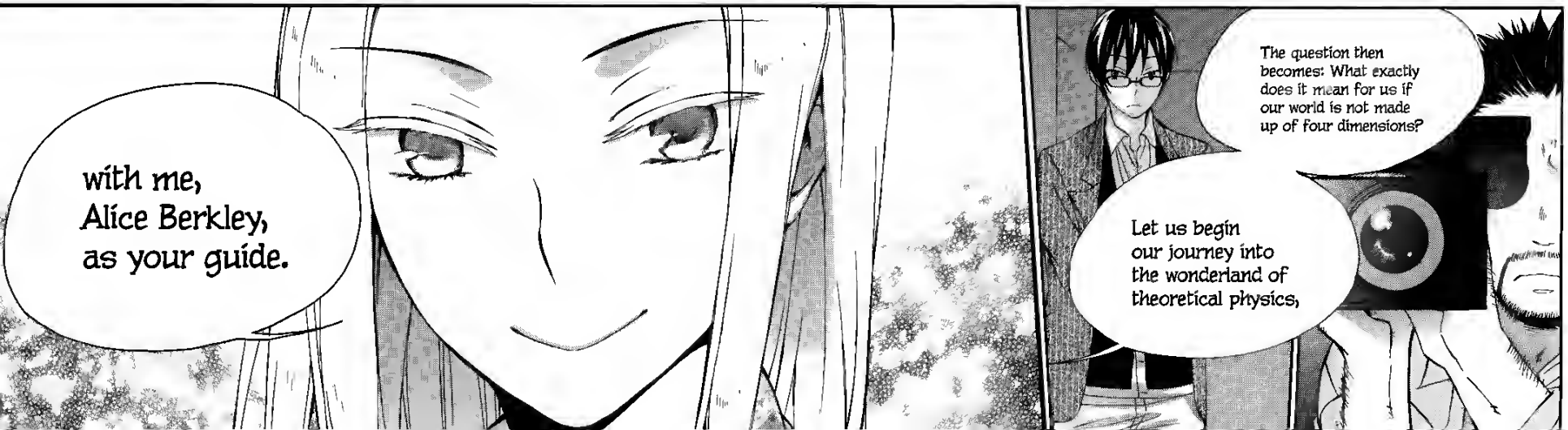
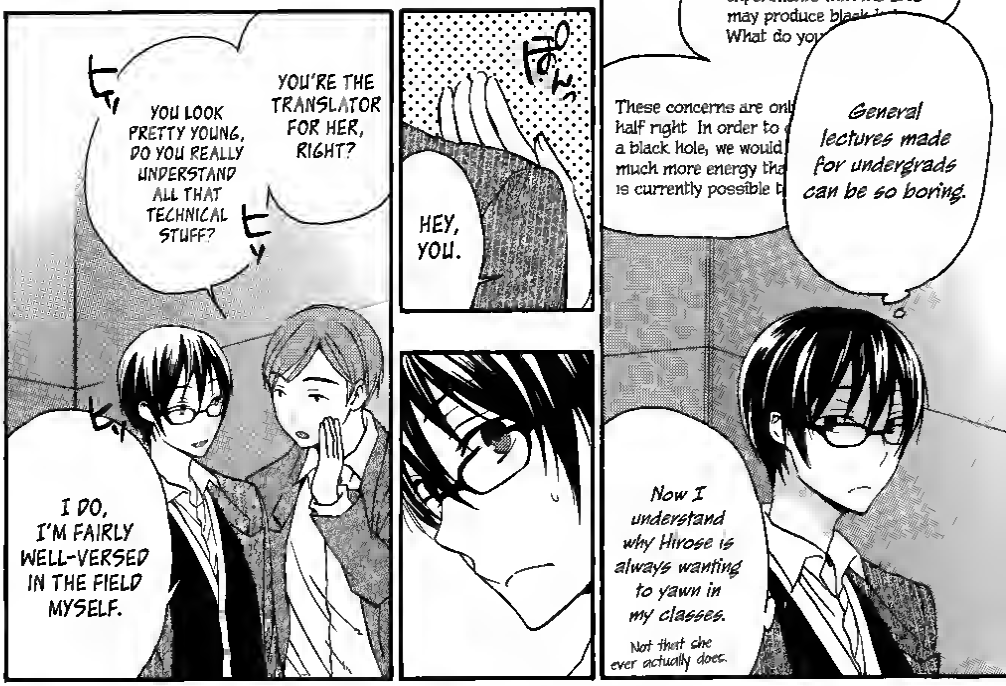
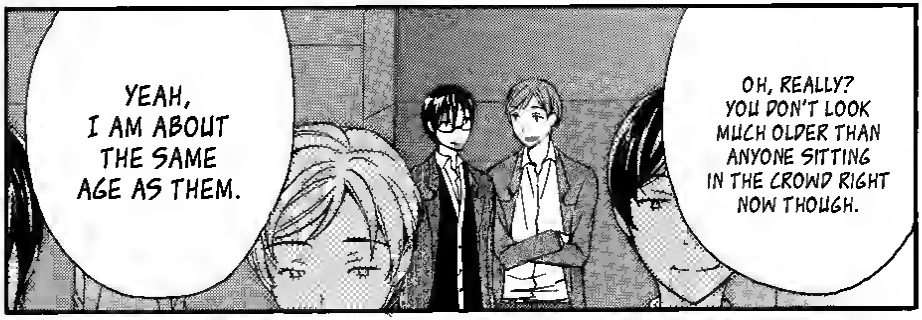
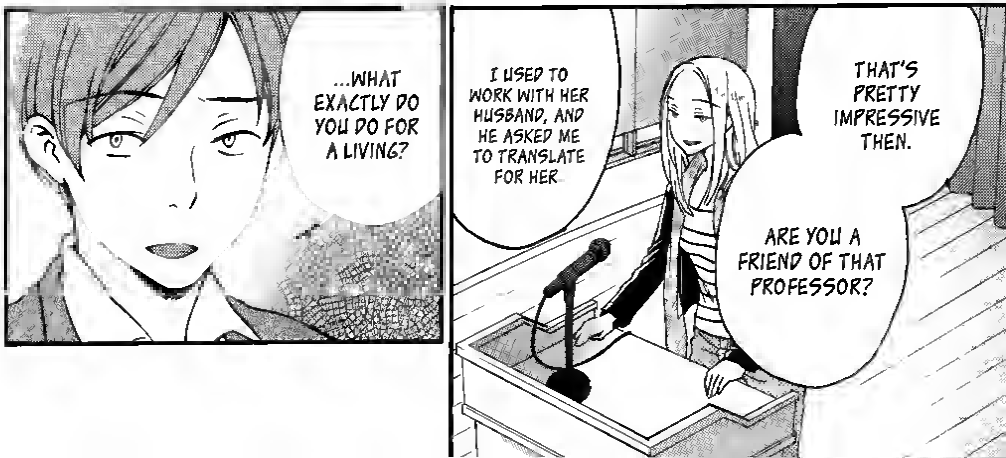

However with recent research some have begun to suspect that our world is in fact made up of many more dimensions.
This line of thought is common in many fields of theoretical physics, particularly in string theory.
Things we once believed to belong firmly in the realm of anime and science fiction are now being predicted to actually exist in the real world.
Since the time of Copernicus, we have continued to make new discoveries allowing us to catch more and more glimpses into how our world works.
I assume everyone here is aware of the fact that our world is primarily composed of four dimensions: height, width, depth, and time.


with me, Alice Berkley, as your guide.
The question then becomes: What exactly does it mean for us if our world is not made up of four dimensions?
Let us begin our journey into the wonderland of theoretical physics,


There are concerns that experiments with the LHC may produce black
What do you
These concerns are onl
half right. In order to
a black hole, we would
much more energy tha
is currently possible
General lectures made for undergrads can be so boring.
Now I understand why Hirose is always wanting to yawn in my classes.
Not that she ever actually does.
HEY, YOU.
YOU'RE THE TRANSLATOR FOR HER, RIGHT?
YOU LOOK PRETTY YOUNG, DO YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND ALL THAT TECHNICAL STUFF?
I DO, I'M FAIRLY WELL-VERSED IN THE FIELD MYSELF.


YEAH, I AM ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS THEM.
OH, REALLY? YOU DON'T LOOK MUCH OLDER THAN ANYONE SITTING IN THE CROWD RIGHT NOW THOUGH.

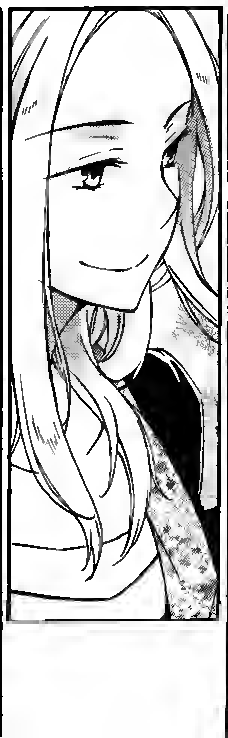

...WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?
I USED TO WORK WITH HER HUSBAND, AND HE ASKED ME TO TRANSLATE FOR HER.
THAT'S PRETTY IMPRESSIVE THEN.
ARE YOU A FRIEND OF THAT PROFESSOR?

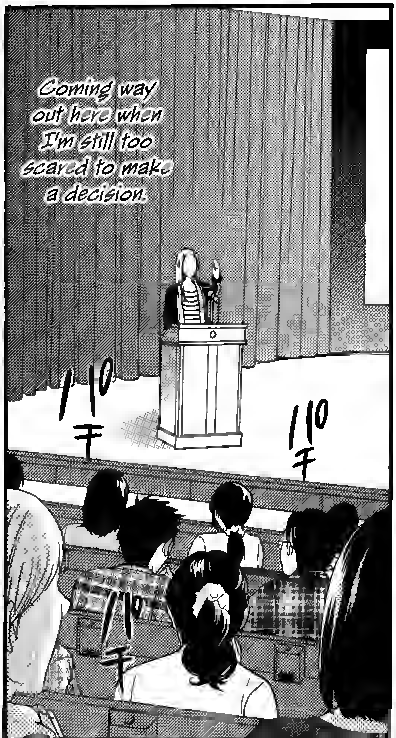
I couldn't be any more pathetic.

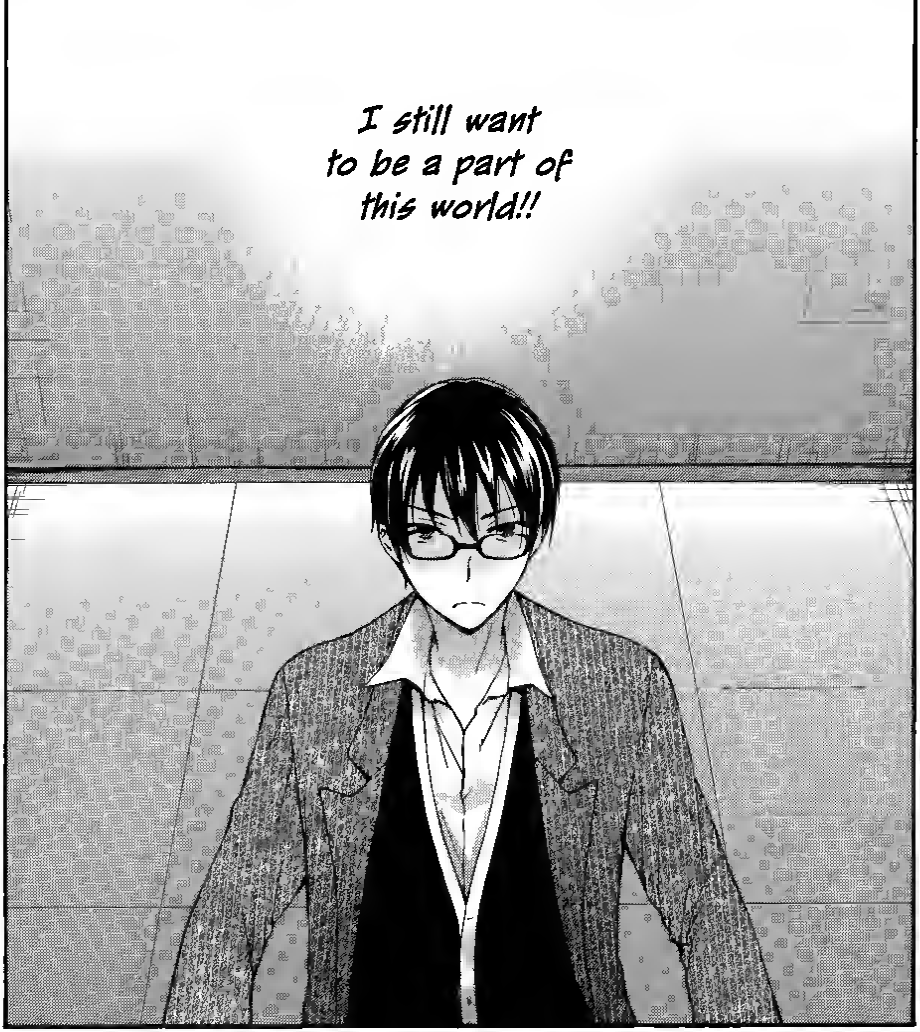
unable to bring myself to go back to Professor Baker or accept my current life as a school teacher.

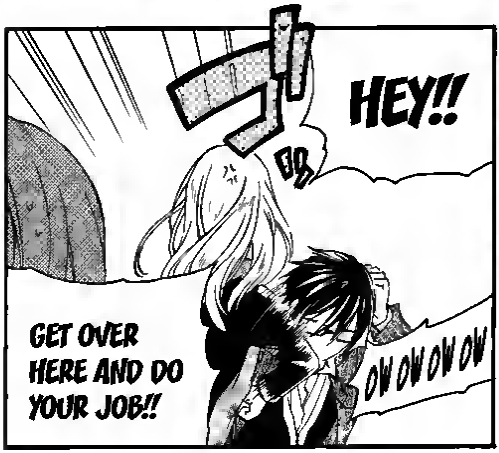
and yet I'm sitting here twiddling my thumbs

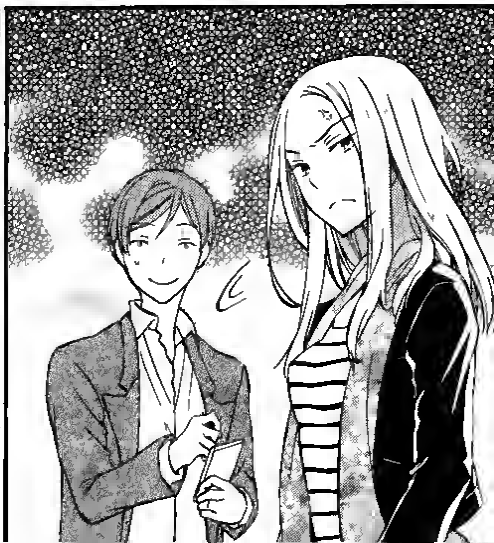
My rivals' research is advancing day by day,



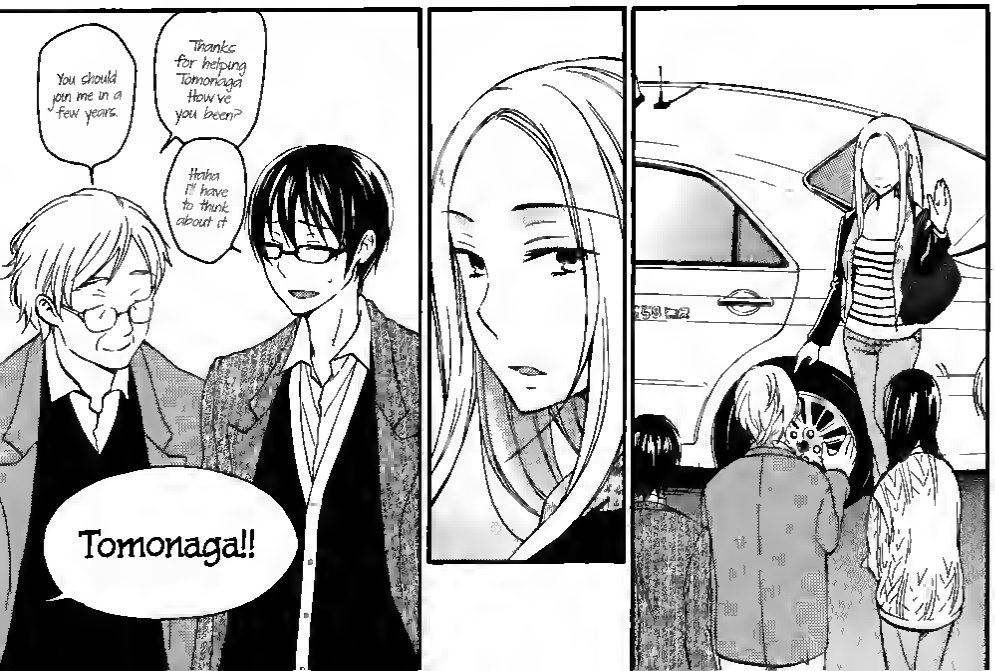



I still want
to be a part of
this world!!


HEY!!
GET OVER HERE AND DO YOUR JOB!!
OW OW OW OW

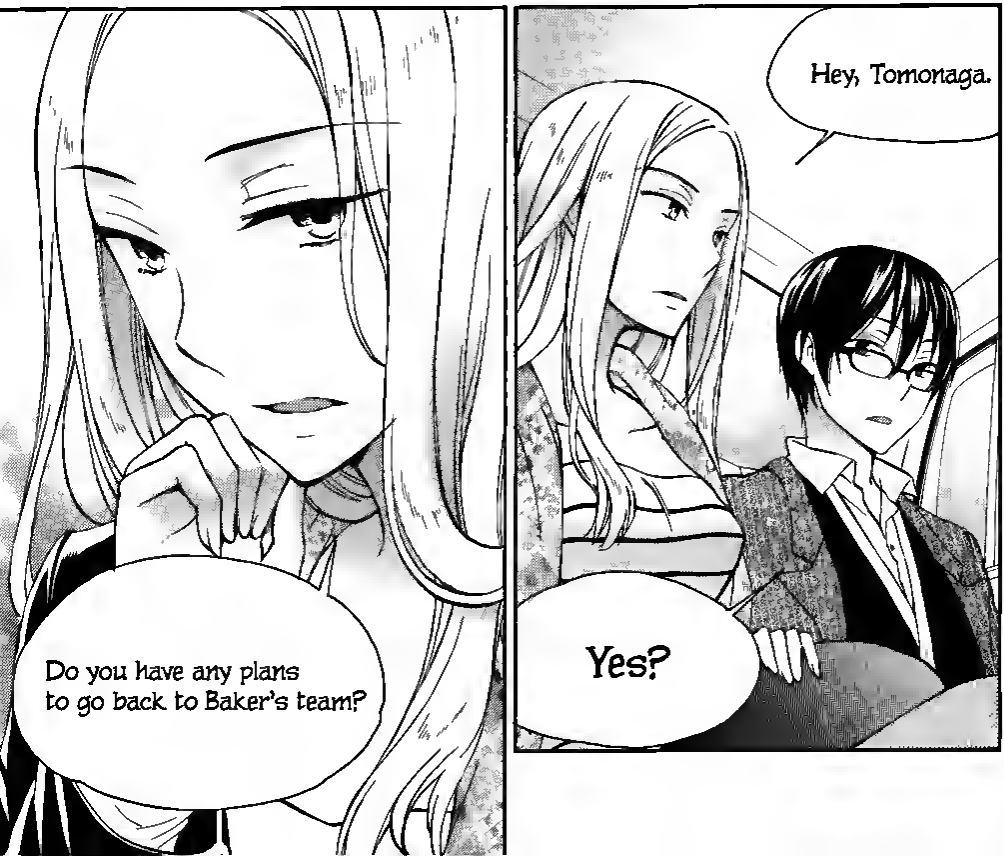


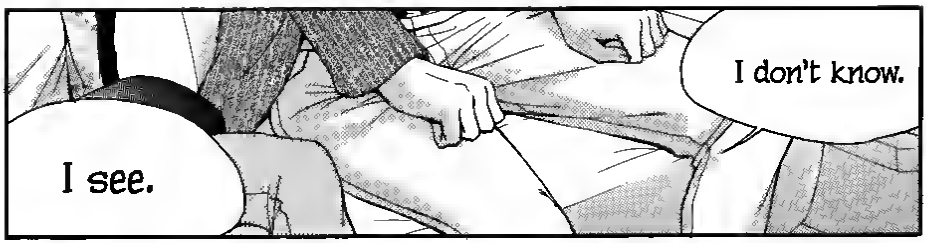
Extra
Dime
Ar
Prof.
Alic
It's fine. Are you ready to start now?
Sorry, I got lost in thought there.


You should join me in a few years.
Thanks for helping Tomonaga. How've you been?
Haha I'll have to think about it
Tomonaga!!

I don't know where the hotel is, can you take me back?
She totally kidnapped me just now.
I know I told the driver where to go.
This silence is so awkward. Gotta find something to talk about.

Umm... How did you think your lecture went today?
Personally, I was pretty happy to see students here in Japan asking a lot of intelligent questions.
Yeah... it wasn't bad.
.....
I repeat. awkward.

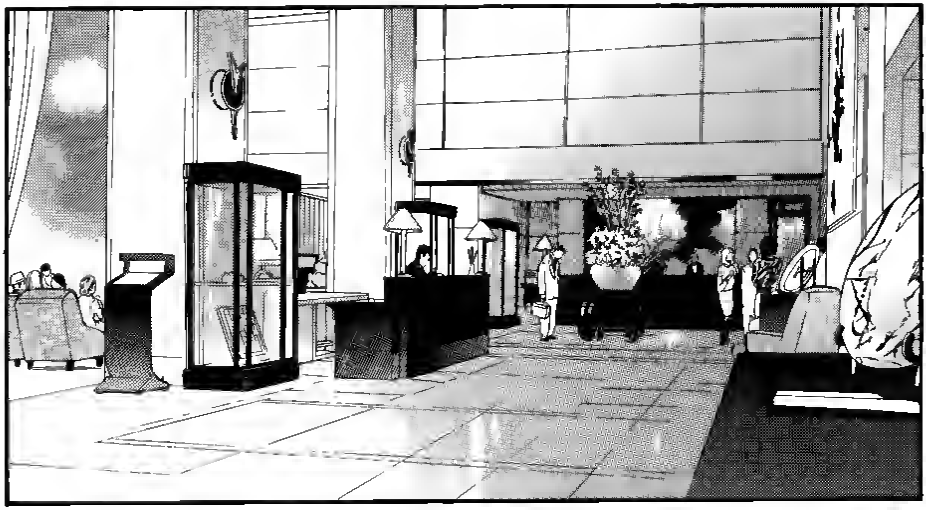

Hey, Tomonaga.
Yes?
Do you have any plans to go back to Baker's team?


I don't know.
I see.

I'm not sure if the choice I made was right anymore.
But I feel like I'd have regretted any decision I made back then, and I'm certainly regretting the one I did make.
If you're gonna beg to go back you better do it soon.
Baker's project is going to be a joint-operation
between a national research institute and several other colleges.
That's why Leon came to Japan, too.

Ah, don't take that the wrong way though.
Your worry is something many students struggle with. You are a bit of a special case,
but still, it's nothing unusual.
That's very student-like of you.
Hmm.
Anyway,
I suppose I can spend some time giving you a little guidance.

If you have any desire left to be a part of this world,
then come with me!!



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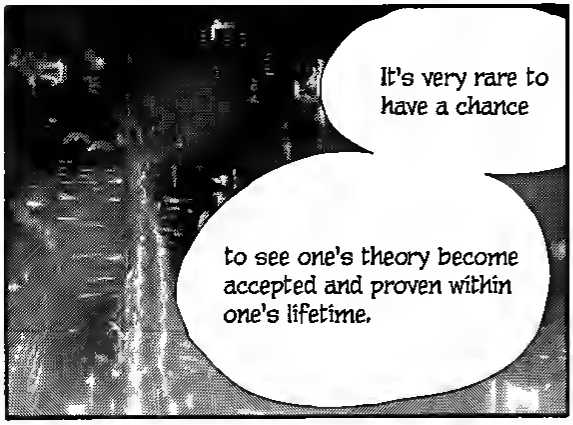
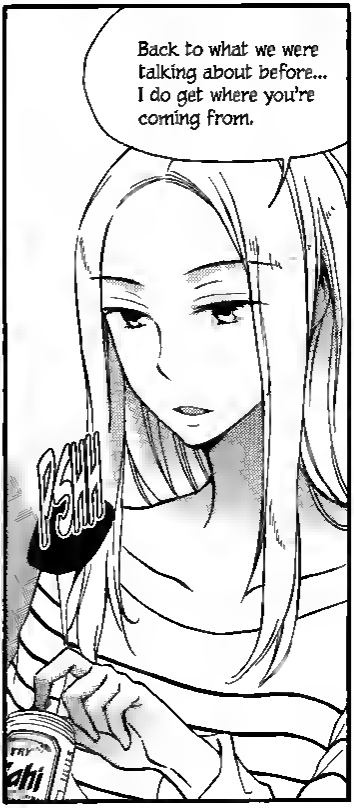
Sorry, it's a little messy in here.
She just got here yesterday right? How in the...

Uwa...

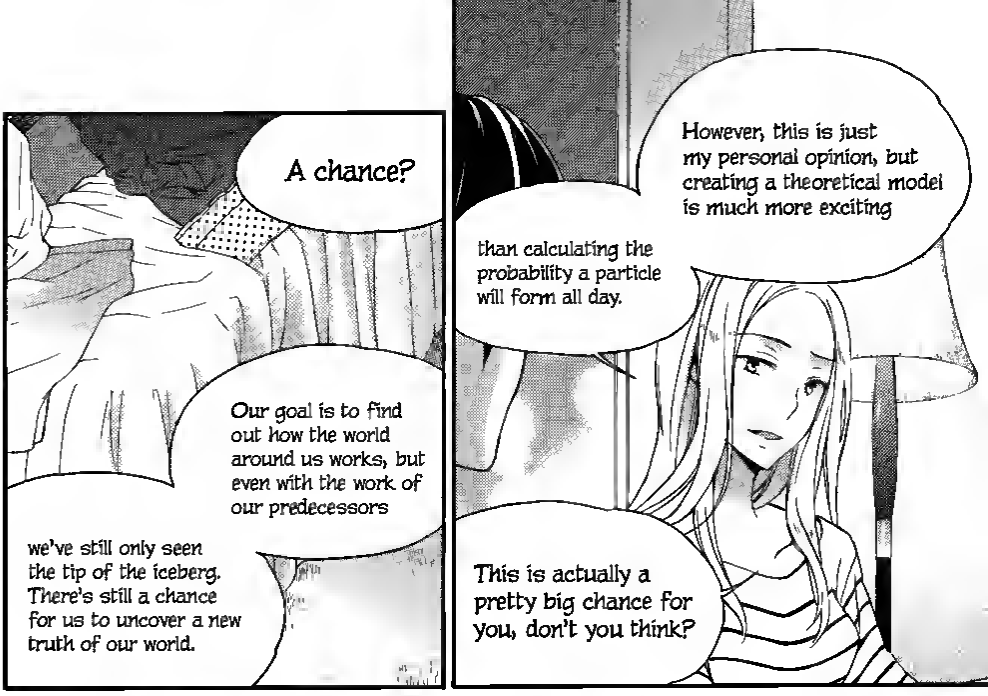
Sensei, if you want we could go to the cafe downsta...
Leon.. I had no idea how hard you have it. You're really something.
No... It's more relaxing in here, don't you think?
There's nowhere safe to look.
Oh God... Why have you forsaken me!?
Phew.
生
スーパードライ
350ml

Want a drink?
Thank you, don't mind if I do...

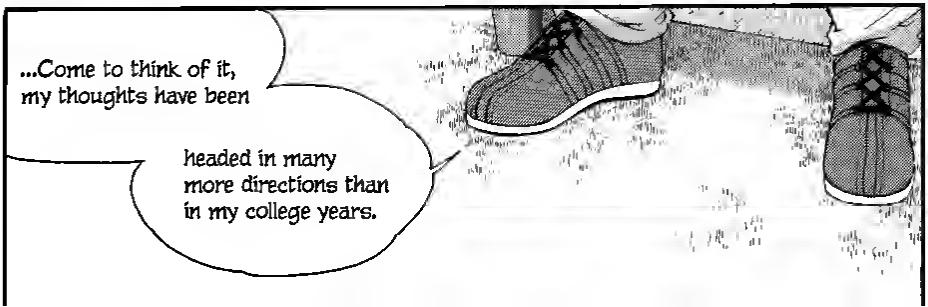

It's very rare to have a chance
to see one's theory become accepted and proven within one's lifetime.


Back to what we were talking about before... I do get where you're coming from.

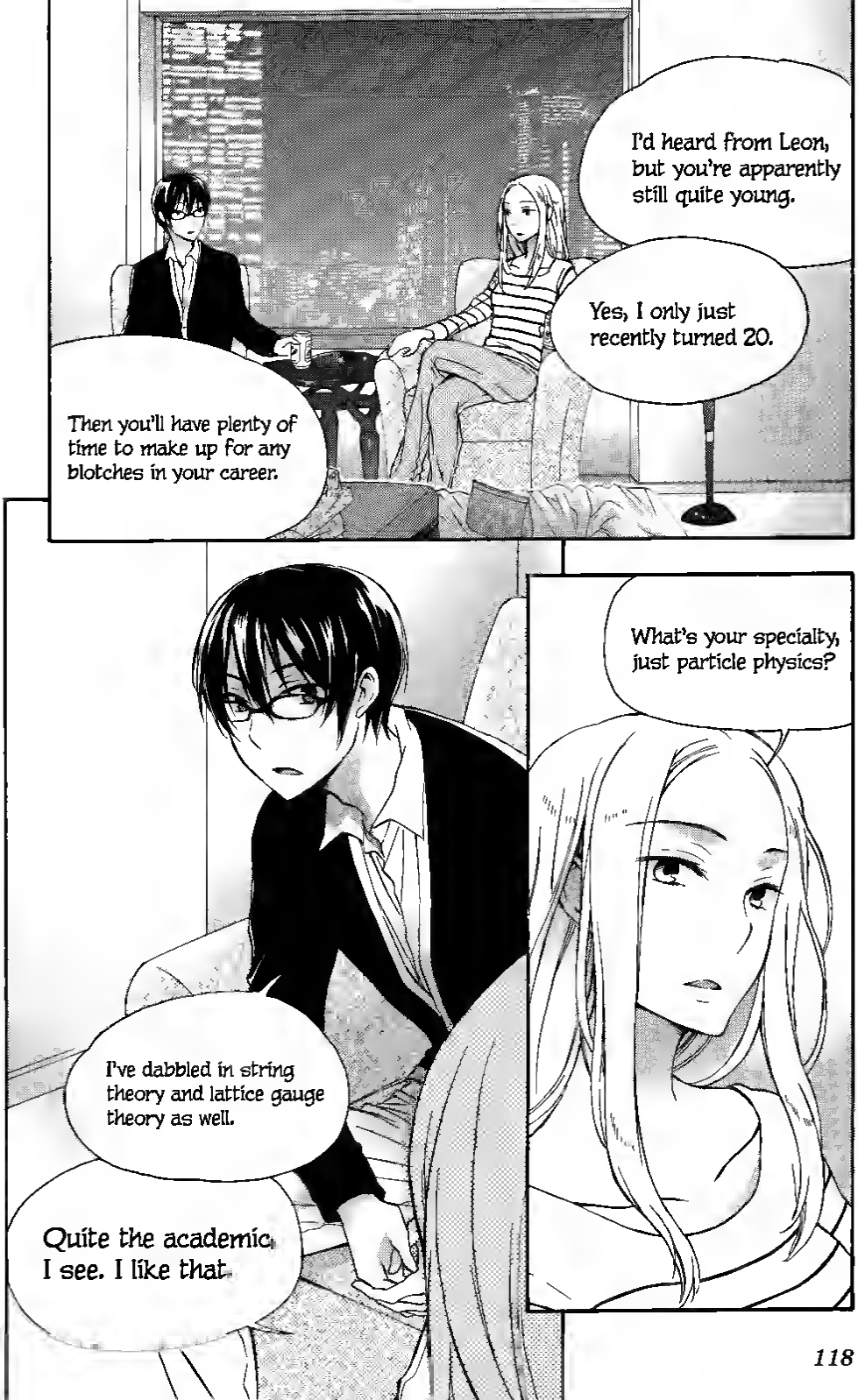
So I can see why you'd want to be on Baker's research team.

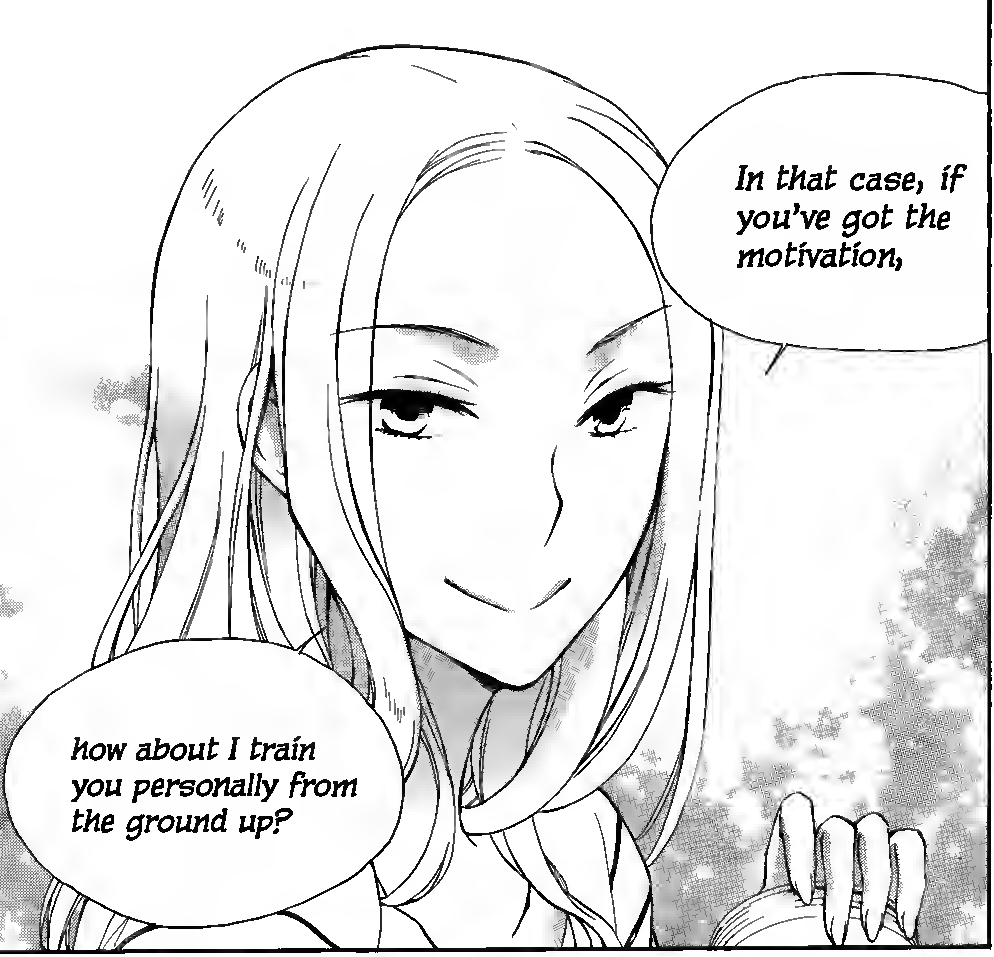

A chance?
Our goal is to find out how the world around us works, but even with the work of our predecessors
we've still only seen the tip of the iceberg. There's still a chance for us to uncover a new truth of our world.
However, this is just my personal opinion, but creating a theoretical model is much more exciting
than calculating the probability a particle will form all day.
This is actually a pretty big chance for you, don't you think?

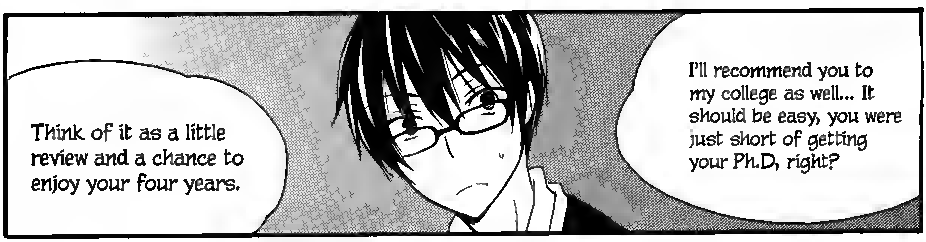
By leaving Baker's team you no longer have to focus on a single model.
You're now free to pursue any line of research you want, are you not?

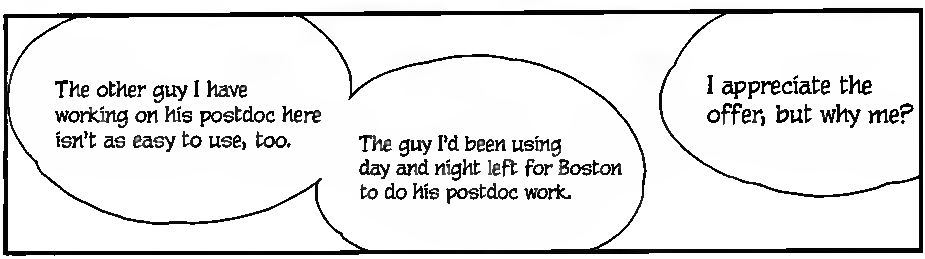

...Come to think of it, my thoughts have been
headed in many more directions than in my college years.

And that pleasure is something only available to us.
Humans are the only animals on Earth that possess intellectual curiosity.
The search for wisdom is an unrivaled pleasure.
What about you?
Tomonaga, I'm a hedonist.
I enjoy my work more than I could ever describe.
What's there for you to be lost about? Afraid of making a mistake?
The research we do today is built on countless past failures.
I enjoy it too... very much so.
But right now, I'm lost.


I'd heard from Leon, but you're apparently still quite young.
Yes, I only just recently turned 20.
Then you'll have plenty of time to make up for any blotches in your career.
What's your specialty, just particle physics?
I've dabbled in string theory and lattice gauge theory as well.
Quite the academic, I see. I like that.

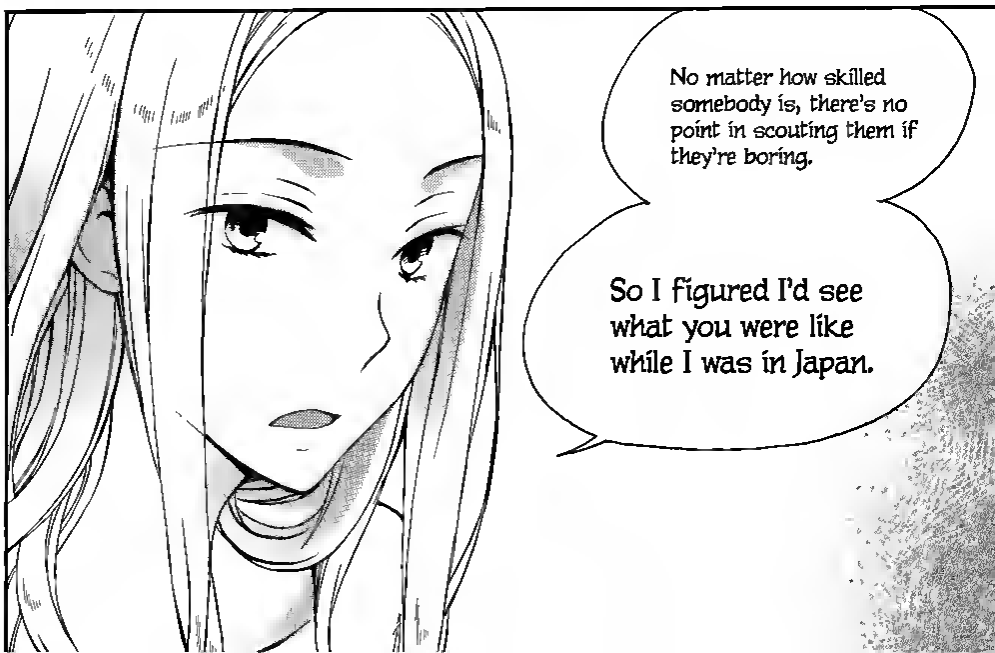

In that case, if you've got the motivation,
how about I train you personally from the ground up?


Think of it as a little review and a chance to enjoy your four years.
I'll recommend you to my college as well... It should be easy, you were just short of getting your Ph.D, right?


The other guy I have working on his postdoc here isn't as easy to use, too.
The guy I'd been using day and night left for Boston to do his postdoc work.
I appreciate the offer, but why me?

I-interview?
My husband said there was an amusing guy in Japan with a ton of free time.
Besides, I said you passed the interview, didn't I?
You seem pretty convenient in that regard.
I'll have to drop you once you get your Ph.D though...
.....

I do think it's adorable how far he's willing to go
HAH!?
to be able to stand on equal footing with me.
WHA-
I'm guessing he probably just wants to load you off on me.
After all, it'd be difficult for him to get a lead position on Baker's team with you there.


No matter how skilled somebody is, there's no point in scouting them if they're boring.
So I figured I'd see what you were like while I was in Japan.

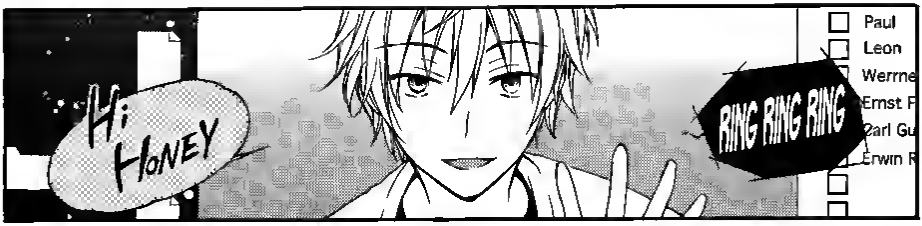
Your moratorium's gone on long enough, has it not?
Trust me, winter in California is way better than Boston.
I'll give you some time to think it over.
In any case.
You'll need a Ph.D if you wanna survive in this world.

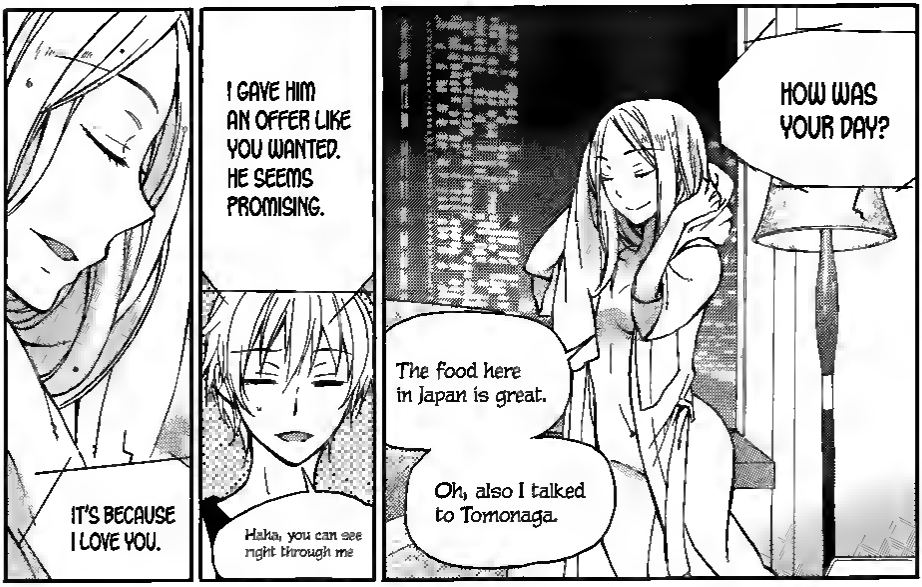
Like a treasure buried in a tiny space, hidden from our eyes,

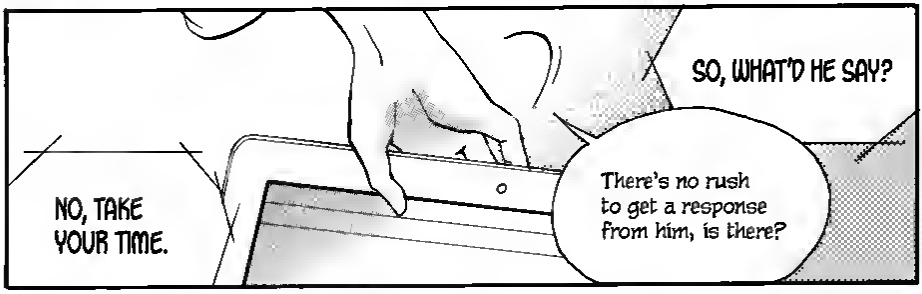
there are many undiscovered phenomena in this world,

and the human lifespan leaves us with precious little time to find and prove their existence.

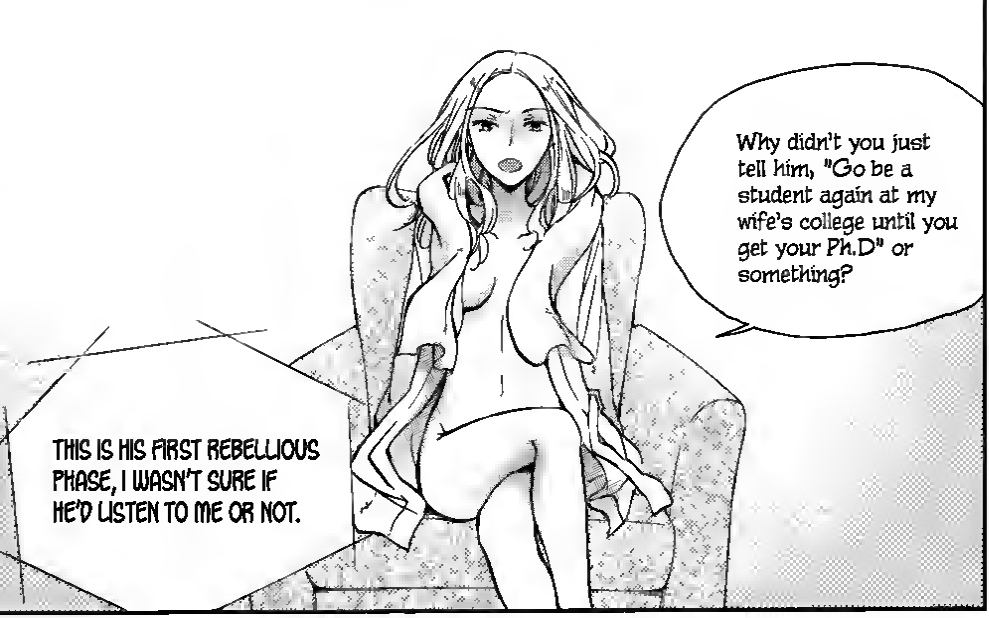
How could I forget that?
I don't have time to waste standing still here

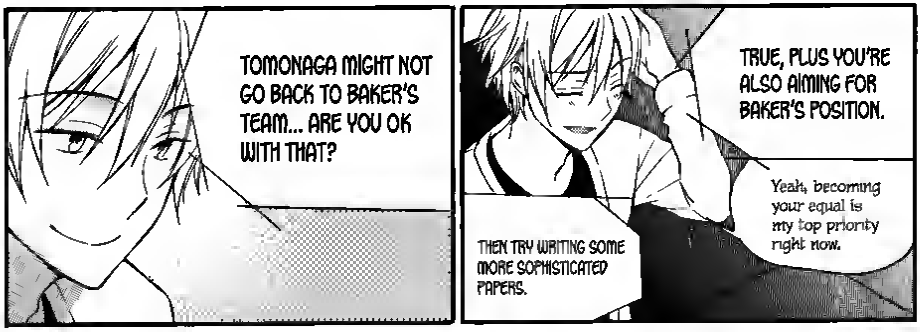

Hi Honey
RING RING RING
Paul
Leon
Werrne
Ernst F
Carl Gu
Erwin R


IT'S BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.
I GAVE HIM AN OFFER LIKE YOU WANTED. HE SEEMS PROMISING.
Haha, you can see right through me
HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
The food here in Japan is great.
Oh, also I talked to Tomonaga.


NO, TAKE YOUR TIME.
SO, WHAT'D HE SAY?
There's no rush to get a response from him, is there?

I swear though, you're so roundabout.


Why didn't you just tell him, "Go be a student again at my wife's college until you get your Ph.D" or something?
THIS IS HIS FIRST REBELLIOUS PHASE, I WASN'T SURE IF HE'D LISTEN TO ME OR NOT.


TOMONAGA MIGHT NOT GO BACK TO BAKER'S TEAM... ARE YOU OK WITH THAT?
TRUE, PLUS YOU'RE ALSO AIMING FOR BAKER'S POSITION.
Yeah, becoming your equal is my top priority right now.
THEN TRY WRITING SOME MORE SOPHISTICATED PAPERS.

All I can do is give him a little push.
The choice is his to make.

It'd be a shame for the world of physics to lose someone like him though.

By the way, what's Leon of all people? Just curious...
Well, he was pretty persistent, so I ended up just saying OK...
Don't worry. I love him now, including his odd tendencies.

VEXED SCANS

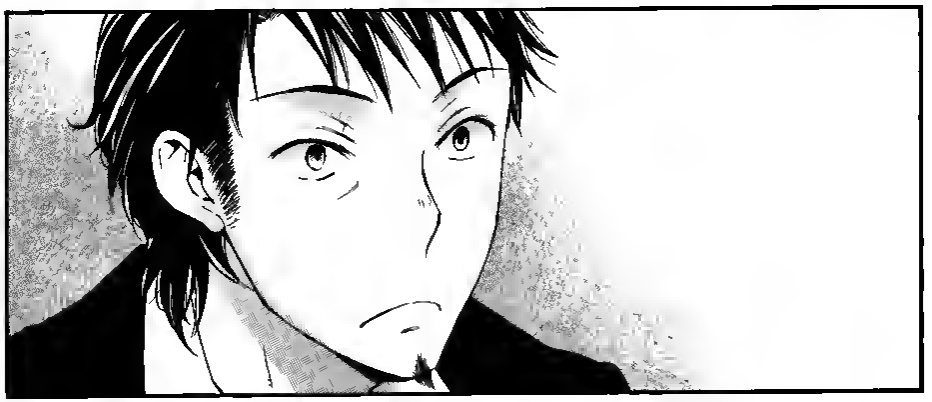
A METHED TO MAKE THE GENTLE WORLD - 23

TYPESETTING: RELM
THE PITA REDRAWS: VEXED
THE REST: VEXED

YOU WILL NEVER HAVE A WAIFU WITH A PH.D ;_;

CONTACT INFO:
E-MAIL: DUMMYBOX928@GMAIL.COM
SITE: VEXEDSCANS.BLOGSPOT.COM
IRC: VEXED IN #VEXEDSCANS ON RIZON

I'M THINKING OF GOING BACK TO AMERICA,
AFTER THE FIRST SEMESTER ENDS.



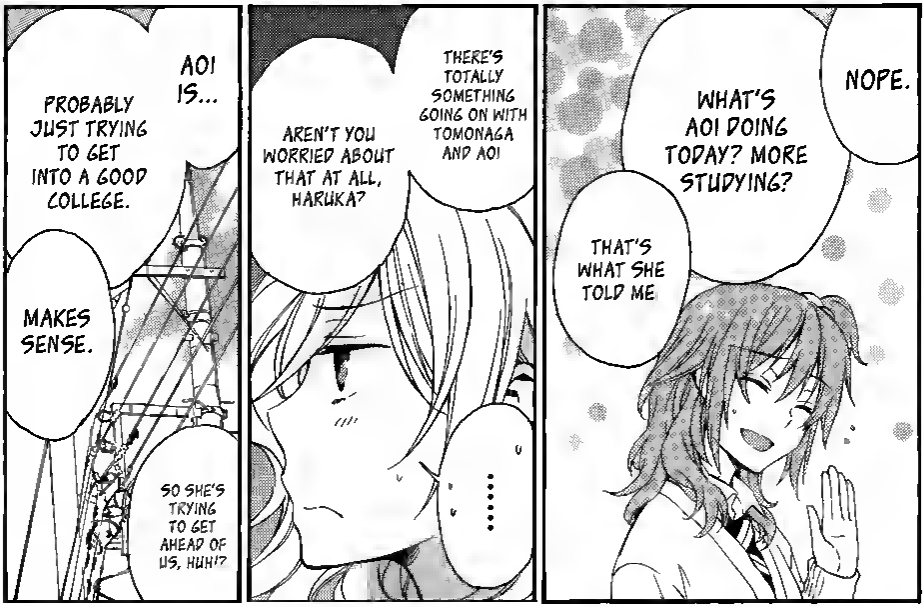
FOUND A PLACE TO WORK?
YES, ONE OF MY OLD COLLEAGUES SHOWED ME A RESEARCH TEAM I COULD JOIN.
TECHNICALLY, I DO STILL HAVE TO TAKE AN ENTRANCE EXAM,
BUT I WON'T LET IT GET IN THE WAY OF MY JOB HERE.
I SEE.
GOOD LUCK THEN.
THANK YOU.

I REALLY APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME.
CHILL OUT, IT'S NOT A DONE DEAL YET, RIGHT?
Save it for after you pass that test!

I've only got a few months left here.
Even if it was always meant to be a temporary thing, graduating before my students...
feels a bit sad.

CHAPTER 24: THE PURE-HEARTED SPECTRUM

MAN, I FEEL SO GREAT NOW THAT MIDTERMS ARE OVER.
YEAH, WE'VE GOT THAT FIELD TRIP SOON TOO.
DID YOU GET A SWIMSUIT YET?


NOPE.
WHAT'S AOI DOING TODAY? MORE STUDYING?
THAT'S WHAT SHE TOLD ME
THERE'S TOTALLY SOMETHING GOING ON WITH TOMONAGA AND AOI
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT THAT AT ALL, HARUKA?
.....
AOI IS...
PROBABLY JUST TRYING TO GET INTO A GOOD COLLEGE.
MAKES SENSE.
SO SHE'S TRYING TO GET AHEAD OF US, HUH!?

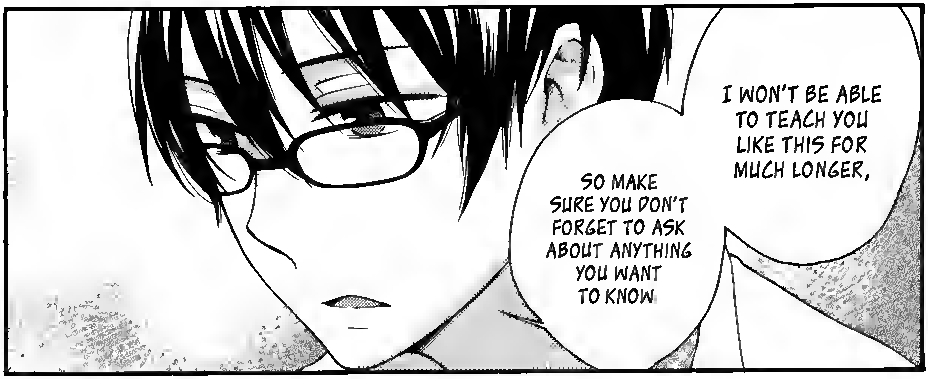
AOI HELPED ME STUDY A FEW TIMES BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
SHE'S ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD AT IT.

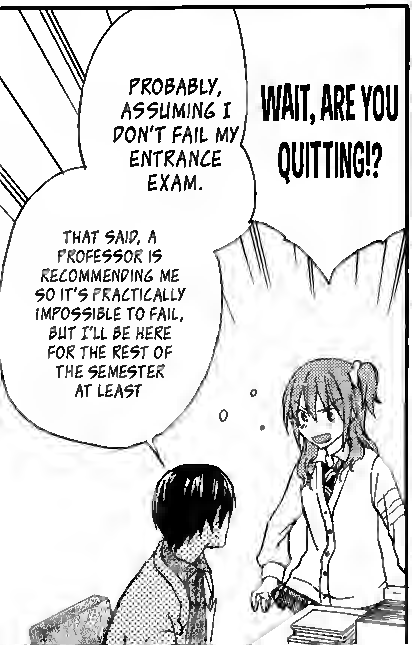
Aoi.
ANYWAY, SWIMSUITS DO THEY EVEN MAKE 'EM BIG ENOUGH FOR YOU KAYO?
YEAH, BUT IT'S LIKE-

THEN WHY AREN'T HER GRADES THAT GOOD?
YEAH, SHE GETS PRETTY AVERAGE SCORES.
MAYBE SHE REALLY IS JUST STUDYING WITH HIM.
U U
.....
U

KEEPING A SECRET IS HARD!

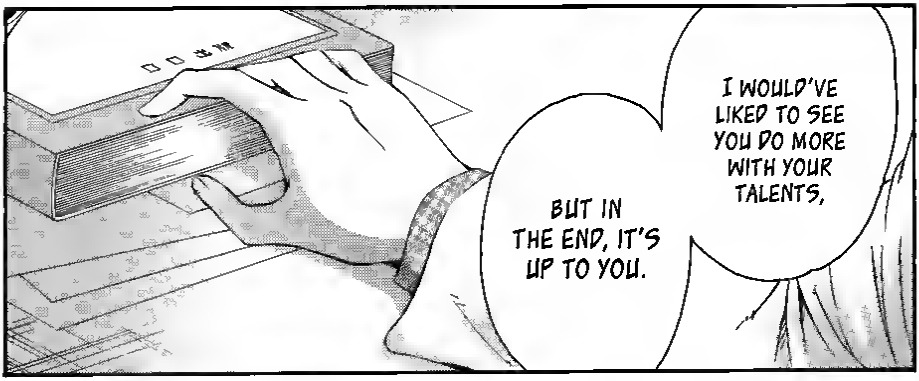
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?
AH, YES, I AM.
But I really wanted to learn about this part...
HEY!
I bet everyone's going to look at swimsuits today...
I wish I coulda gone with.
ESONATES, HICH IMPLIES THAT SAID EFFECT IS ALSO INCLUDED IN
HIROSE?

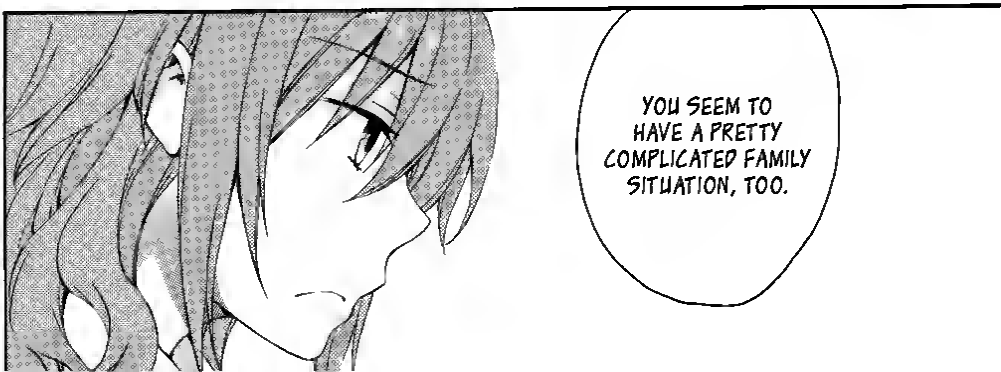

I WON'T BE ABLE TO TEACH YOU LIKE THIS FOR MUCH LONGER,
SO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T FORGET TO ASK ABOUT ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW

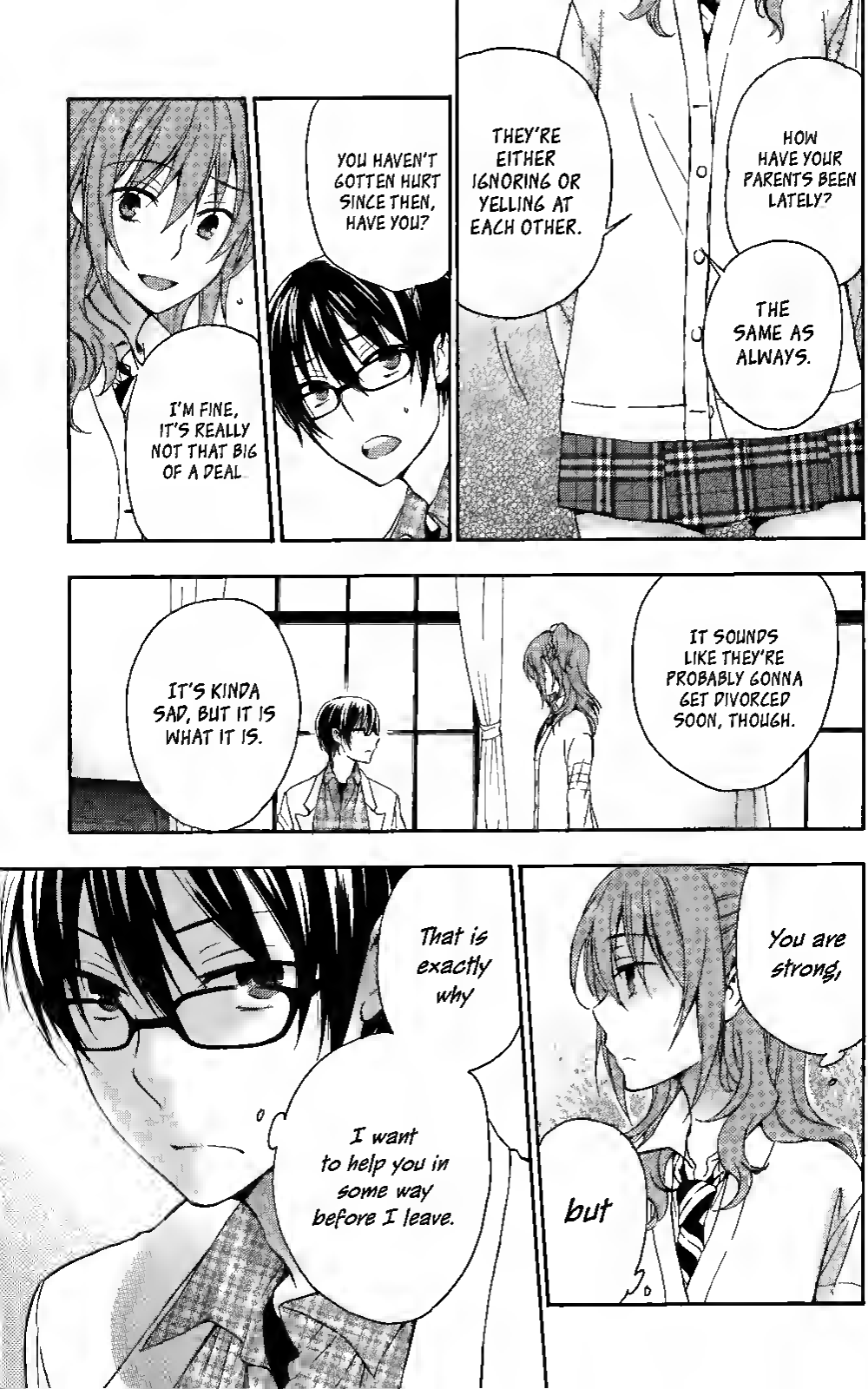

PROBABLY, ASSUMING I DON'T FAIL MY ENTRANCE EXAM.
WAIT, ARE YOU QUITTING!?
THAT SAID, A PROFESSOR IS RECOMMENDING ME SO IT'S FRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FAIL, BUT I'LL BE HERE FOR THE REST OF THE SEMESTER AT LEAST

HUH?

SO, HIROSE...
WHAT ARE YOU... GOING TO DO AFTER I LEAVE?
WHAT WILL I DO?
PROBABLY WHAT I ALWAYS HAVE.
I'LL GRADUATE FROM HERE AND GO TO THE SISTER COLLEGE AFFILIATED WITH OUR SCHOOL...
I SEE.


I WOULD'VE LIKED TO SEE YOU DO MORE WITH YOUR TALENTS,
BUT IN THE END, IT'S UP TO YOU.


YOU SEEM TO HAVE A PRETTY COMPLICATED FAMILY SITUATION, TOO.

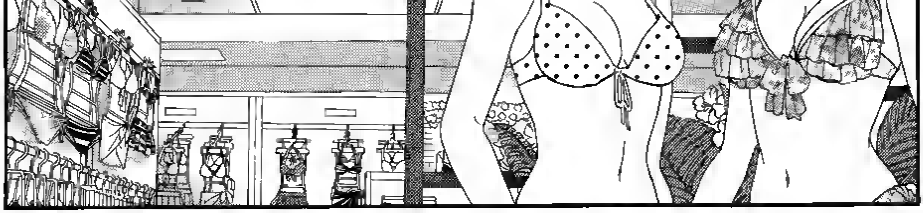

HOW HAVE YOUR PARENTS BEEN LATELY?
THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
THEY'RE EITHER IGNORING OR YELLING AT EACH OTHER.
YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN HURT SINCE THEN, HAVE YOU?
I'M FINE, IT'S REALLY NOT THAT BIG OF A DEAL
IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE PROBABLY GONNA GET DIVORCED SOON, THOUGH.
IT'S KINDA SAD, BUT IT IS WHAT IT IS.
You are strong,
but
That is exactly why
I want to help you in some way before I leave.

PARCO
ウソ…
!!
I can't get any real cleavage no matter how hard I try
I guess I need more pads.
FIND ANYTHING GOOD?

WHAT IS THIS CRUSHING SENSE OF DEFEAT?
AH, HARUKA, THAT ONE'S PRETTY CUTE.
HMM.
THANKS.
HOW'S MINE LOOK? THINK OLDER GUYS'D LIKE IT?
I FEEL LIKE OLDER GUYS WOULD LIKE A YOUNGER LOOK.
AHH, I KNEW IT, THIS SUCKS!!
EVERYTHING IS TOO SMALL FOR ME.
I THINK I HAVE TO GO TO A BIGGER STORE.

HELLO?
I would if I could!!
Come on, gimme some... just a little bit!
HOLY CRAP LOOK AT THOSE THINGS! BEING THAT BIG SHOULD BE A CRIME!
NO FAIR!! GIVE ME SOME!! EQUALITY FOR ALL!!
SHUT UP!! JUST BE THANKFUL YOU CAN FIND STUFF THAT FITS!!

WHERE ARE YOU?
THE SWIMSUIT SECTION AT MARCO.
MIND IF I COME HANG OUT TOO?
YEAH, THAT'S FINE...
?
BUT GET READY TO BE SURPRISED.



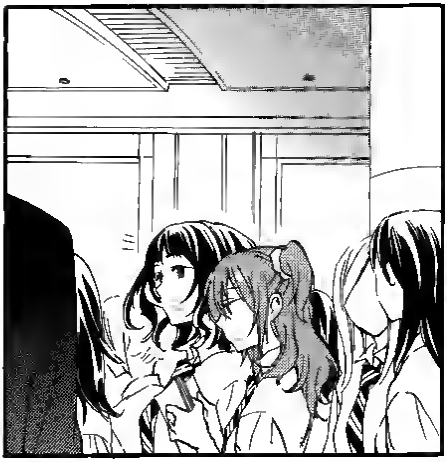
LOOK AT THIS, AOI!! WHAT DO YOU THINK!?
HEY, I'M NOT SOME KINDA FREAK SHOW!!!
SHE COULD TOTALLY BE A BIKINI MODEL WITH A PAIR THIS BIG, DON'T YOU THINK?
AH.
SHE FROZE.
HEY, AOI~

AH.
OK...
YOU COME PICK A SWIMSUIT WITH US.
I'M GONNA TRY ON A FEW MORE TOO.
YEAH, NOTHING'S IN YOUR SIZE.
I'M DONE.
I almost forgot...
But...
I need to tell Haruka that Sensei is going to be leaving soon.
she looks so excited, I don't want to ruin the trip for her.

It's fine if I wait
until we get back to tell her, right?

WE MADE IT TO OKINAWA!!

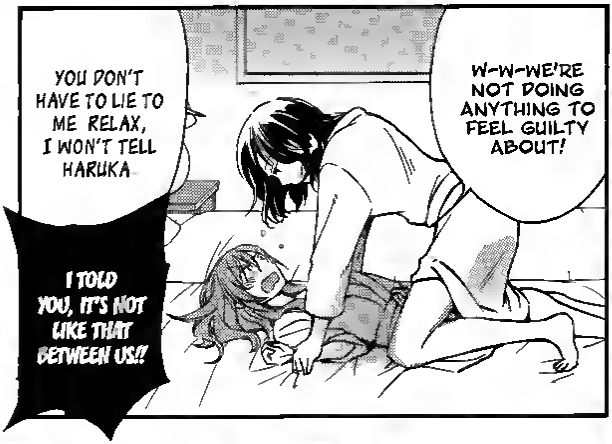
HAVING FUN IS FINE, BUT DON'T GO NUTS AND GET LOST ON ME, OK?
IS IT? THIS IS MY FIRST TIME HERE
I'VE BEEN HERE WITH MY FAMILY BEFORE,
BUT IT'S WAY DIFFERENT WHEN YOU'RE WITH YOUR FRIENDS!!



HEY NOW, TAKE IT EASY ON ME, WILL YA?
WE'RE NOT LITTLE KIDS YOU KNOW!
YEAH, YOU BETTER NOT GET LOST ON US!!
Four whole days with Tomonaga, I can't wait~

HEY, TOUKO HAVE YOU STILL NOT GIVEN UP ON HIM YET?
WHAT? OF COURSE NOT. I EVEN KISSED HIM THE OTHER DAY.
I'll teach you how to dive
You can dive? I don't believe it!
WHY ARE GUYS SO...!?
TO!

SO~
EEK!


YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIE TO ME RELAX, I WON'T TELL HARUKA
W-W-WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT!
I TOLD YOU, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT BETWEEN US!!

AOI .. IT'S TIME YOU SPILLED THE BEANS.
WHAT ARE YOU AND TOMONAGA REALLY DOING AFTER SCHOOL?

TALKING ABOUT WHAT COLLEGE TO GO TO?
Haruka, you sound like an old fart.
Ahh this is great on my old bones..
EVERY SINGLE DAY?
WE JUST..
THEN WHAT ARE YOU ALWAYS DOING TOGETHER?

WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?
SOMETHING YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL ME ABOUT?

I-I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME!
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU AND ONODA -SENSEI!?
DID YOU REALLY KISS HIM!?

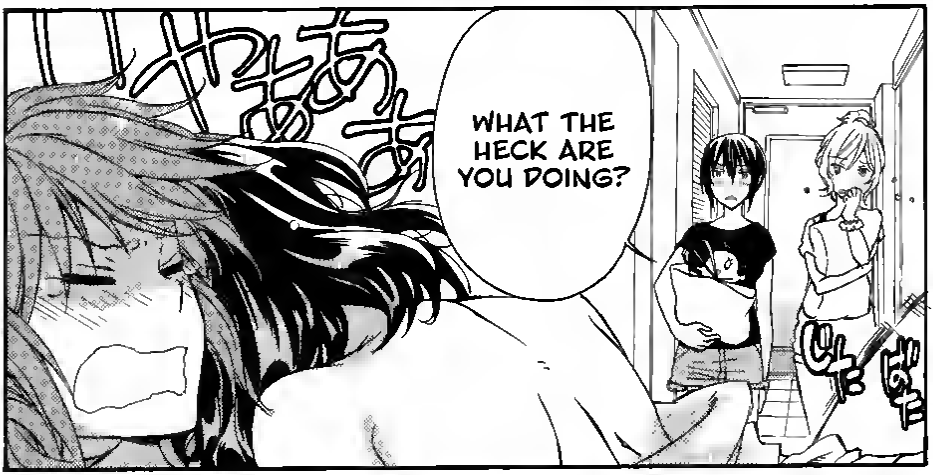
AOI,
YOU'VE ALWAYS ACCEPTED ME FOR WHO I AM.

A kiss between girls is just like saying hi
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? I'VE KISSED YOU BEFORE, TOO.
WANNA KISS RIGHT NOW?
NO!!

AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I'LL ALWAYS ACCEPT YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE, TOO.

TOUKO...
SO COME ON

AND TELL ME THE TRUTH ALREADY!
OTHERWISE I'M GONNA DO WAY MORE THAN JUST KISS YOU!
HEY, YOU TWO...
WHA-
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TOUCHING!?


WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?

Uuu...
I can't go to the beach like this.
DOES IT REALLY MATTER THAT MUCH?
AOI'S DELICATE, UNLIKE YOU.
COME HERE AOI.
I'LL PUT IT ON FOR YOU
THINK WE CAN HIDE IT WITH SOME LIQUID FOUNDATION?
PROBABLY, AS LONG AS IT'S WATERPROOF.
MAYBE GIVE HER A FAST-HEALING BAND-AID?
OH YEAH, THAT'S SKIN-COLORED!
MAN, THERE ARE SOME REAL JERKS OUT THERE, HUH.
TOUKO, JUST SHUT UP.

I KNOW WE'RE CHAPERONES, BUT NOT BEING ABLE TO GO IN THE WATER SUCKS.
IF YOU WANNA GO IN THEN GO AHEAD.

SENSEI.
COULD YOU STOP POURING SALT IN MY WOUNDS?
Im so jealous of you Tomonaga
SHE REALLY IS SOMETHING, ISN'T SHE?
LIKE KAYAMA OVER THERE.
AREN'T YOU GONNA COME SWIM?

YUU.
YOU GOT IT, I'M GLAD YOU CATCH ON QUICK.
I'M GONNA GUESS YOU'RE NOT REFERRING TO ME.
SEE YA' LATER~
EH!? TOMO-NAGA!?
WELL, I'M GONNA GO TAKE A WALK AROUND.
Looks like we've finally got some alone time again, Sensei♥
DAMN IT TOMONAGA, I WON'T FORGET THIS.
WELL NOW,

HM?
HEY, TOHNO.
O~K~
DON'T BRING THAT UP, YOU NEVER KNOW WHO'S LISTENING.

WHAT IS IT?

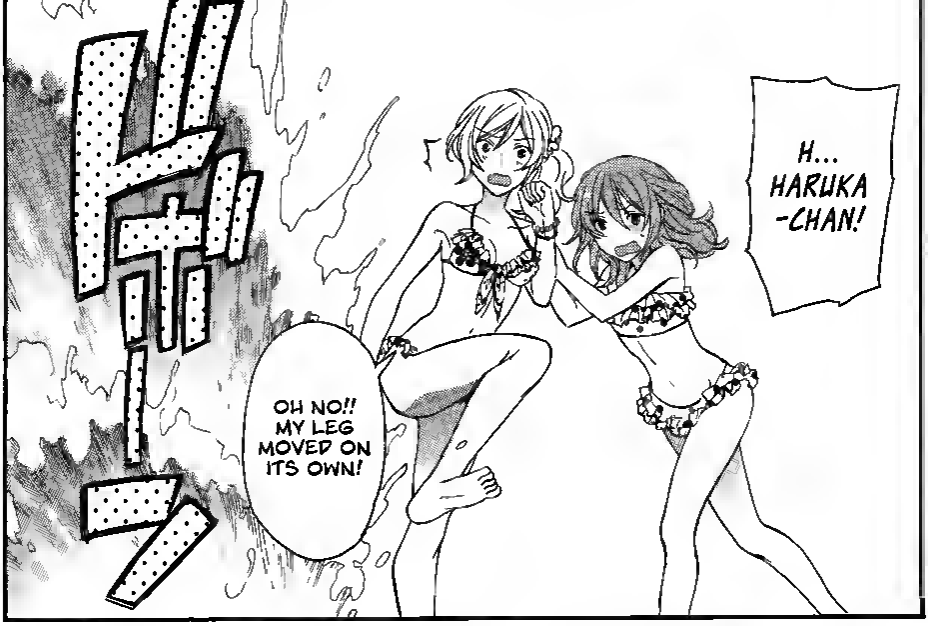
ナニ

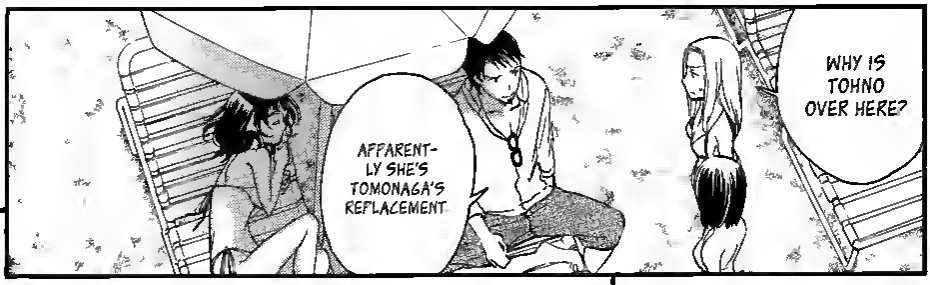
I DON'T HAVE AS MANY CHANCES TO TALK WITH YOU ANYMORE.
.....
WHAT'S THAT?
YEAH, THERE IS ONE.
H...HOW'VE YOU BEEN LATELY? ANY PROBLEMS?
who's got problems here.
Sheesh, I'm the one
Onoda -sensei sure has it rough.
I can't believe Tohno is still after him...
AH.
NOT TODAY.
BY THE WAY, THAT TUBE GOES GOOD WITH YOUR SWIMSUIT.
TOMONAGA -SENSEI.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA GO SWIMMING?

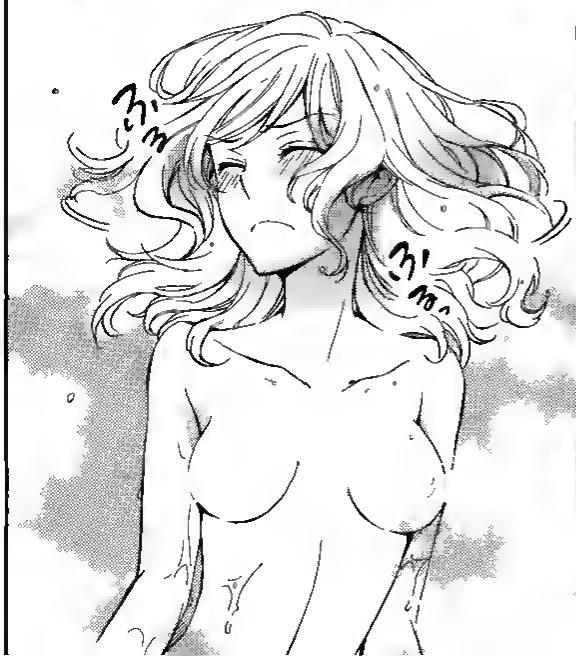
THAT'S A SURPRISE, I WOULD'VE THOUGHT SHE'D BE PRETTY BUOYANT.
AH.
THIS ISN'T FOR ME, I'M GETTING IT FOR KAYO 'CAUSE SHE SAID SHE CAN'T SWIM THAT WELL!
HIROSE, YOUR NECK!
REALLY? A BOOB JOKE?
DID YOUR PARENTS HURT YOU AG...
N-NO, THAT'S NOT IT!
Y-yesterday Touko forced herself on top of me, and, well...
Um...

SORRY!
O-
OH, I SEE.
NO, IT'S FINE...
AH, AOI'S BACK.
THANK YOU FOR LOOKING OUT FOR ME.

I BROUGHT TOMONAGA -SENSEI WITH SINCE HE SEEMED BORED.
HEY, THAT MAKES IT SOUND LIKE I WASN'T DOING MY JOB
TOMONAGA, COME SWIM WITH US.
W-
Woah.
THEY'RE HUGE!!


H... HARUKA -CHAN!
OH NO!! MY LEG MOVED ON ITS OWN!


WHY IS TOHNO OVER HERE?
APPARENT-LY SHE'S TOMONAGA'S REPLACEMENT



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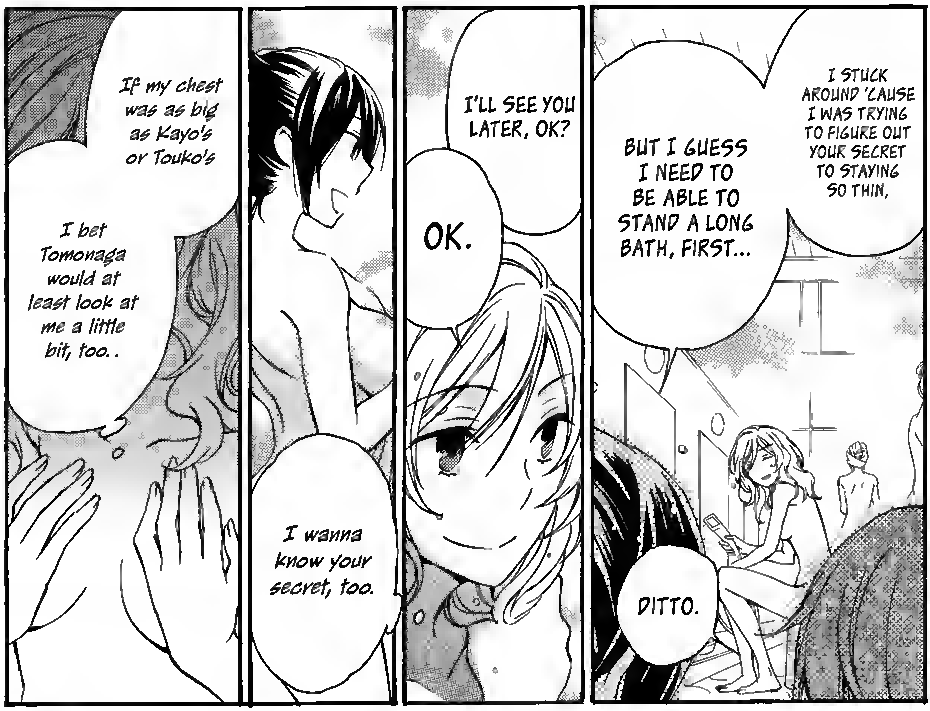
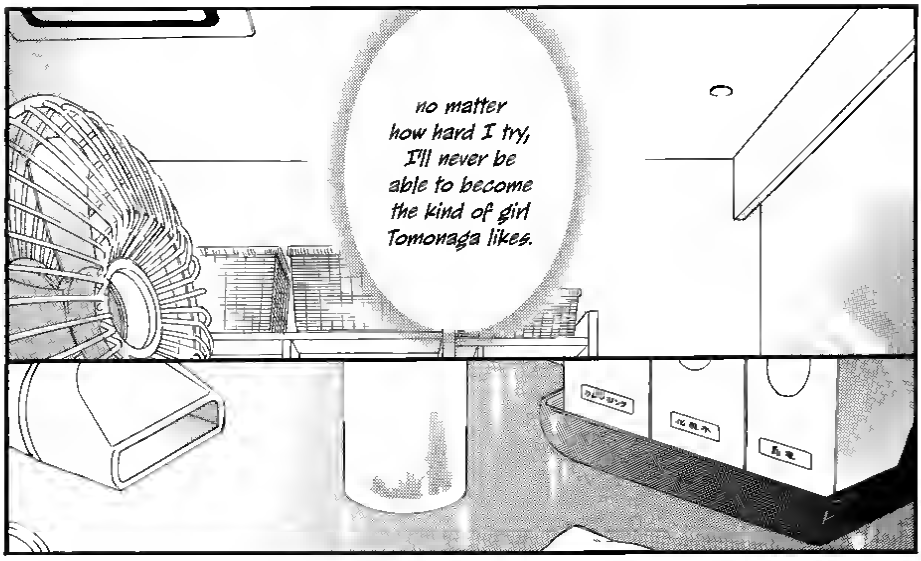
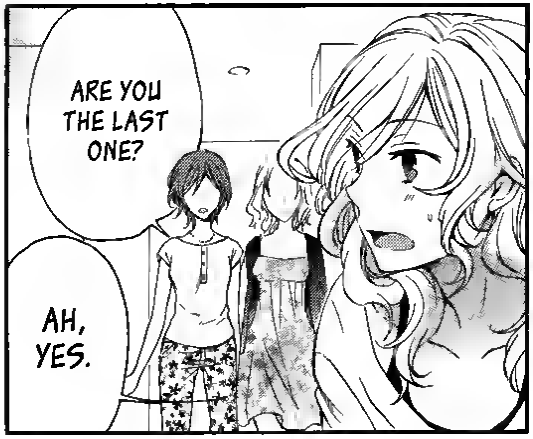
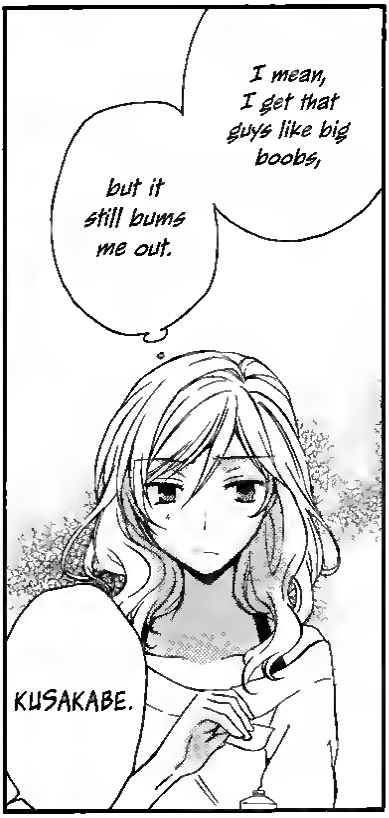
HARUKA~ ARE YOU DONE YET~?
I'M GONNA PASS OUT IN HERE.
THAT'S WHY I SAID NOT TO WAIT FOR ME...

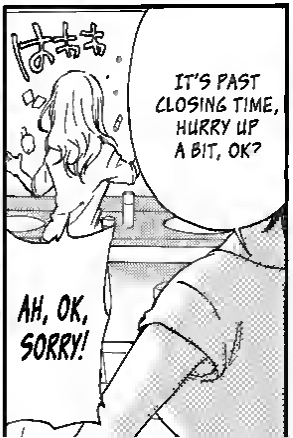

I STUCK AROUND 'CAUSE I WAS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT YOUR SECRET TO STAYING SO THIN,
BUT I GUESS I NEED TO BE ABLE TO STAND A LONG BATH, FIRST...
DITTO.
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, OK?
OK.
I wanna know your secret, too.
If my chest was as big as Kayo's or Touko's
I bet Tomonaga would at least look at me a little bit, too..

Lately it feels like


no matter how hard I try, I'll never be able to become the kind of girl Tomonaga likes.


ARE YOU THE LAST ONE?
AH, YES.


I mean, I get that guys like big boobs,
but it still bums me out.
KUSAKABE.


IT'S PAST CLOSING TIME, HURRY UP A BIT, OK?
AH, OK, SORRY!

Was I really in there that long?
I must've been really lost in thought.
Ah, my lips are chapped.
Where's my lip gloss...
.....
Crap, I think I left it in the changing room.
I bet they're gonna yell at me again for coming back
This sucks.
EXCUSE ME.
OOF.
SO, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, YURINE?

I'M NOT GONNA DO ANYTHING.
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT EITHER.
Ugh, are they fighting?
Better wait until they stop.
YOU SURE YOU WON'T REGRET IT?
EVEN THOUGH TOMONAGA IS GOING BACK TO AMERICA SOON?

AT THE VERY LEAST, IN MY EYES,

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU AND TOMONAGA ARE STILL IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER.

Huh?

What the!? Your boobs are huge, Sakawa!!
Let me feel 'em up!!

VEXED SCANS

A METHED TO MAKE THE GENTLE WORLD - 24

TYPESETTING: RELM
THE PITA REDRAWS: VEXED
THE REST: VEXED

POOR HARUKA ;_;

CONTACT INFO:
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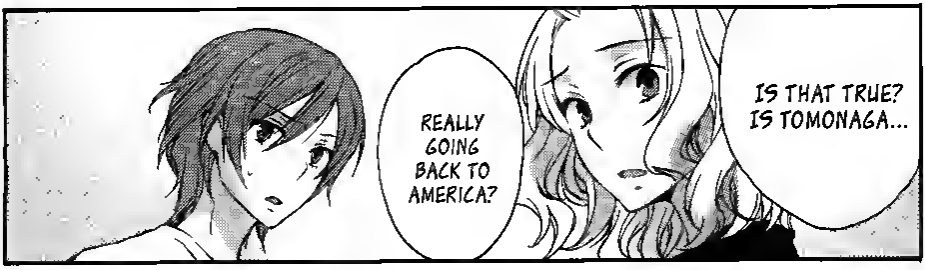
WHAT...
THE HECK?


IS THAT TRUE? IS TOMONAGA...
REALLY GOING BACK TO AMERICA?

ALSO

YOU WERE GOING OUT WITH TOMONAGA, YURINE-CHAN?

SHEESH, WHAT'S TAKING HARUKA SO LONG?
.....
HOTEL
Floor MAP

GUESS I'LL GO LOOK FOR HER THEN
OHH, YOU'RE TOO KIND.
THANKS, TOUKO!

.....

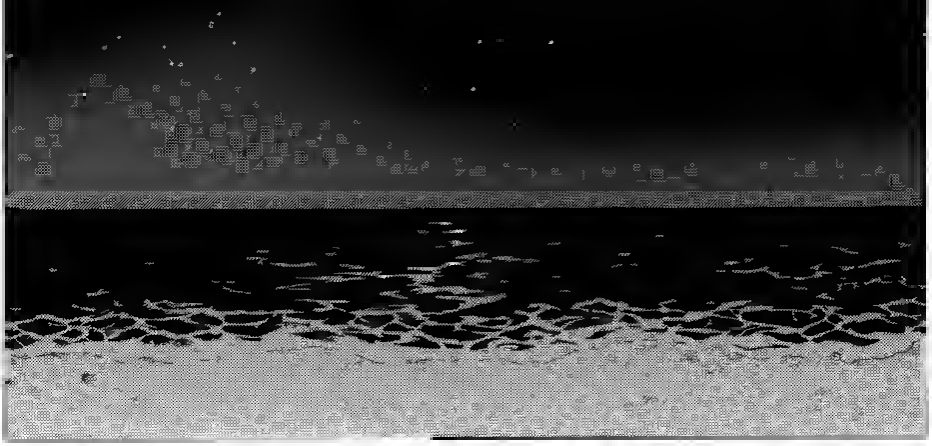
NO POINT, HER PHONE'S RIGHT OVER THERE
SOME GUYS ARE PROBABLY HITTING ON HER.
THINK SHE'S OK? SHOULD WE TEXT HER?
Did she stay in the bath too long and get dizzy?

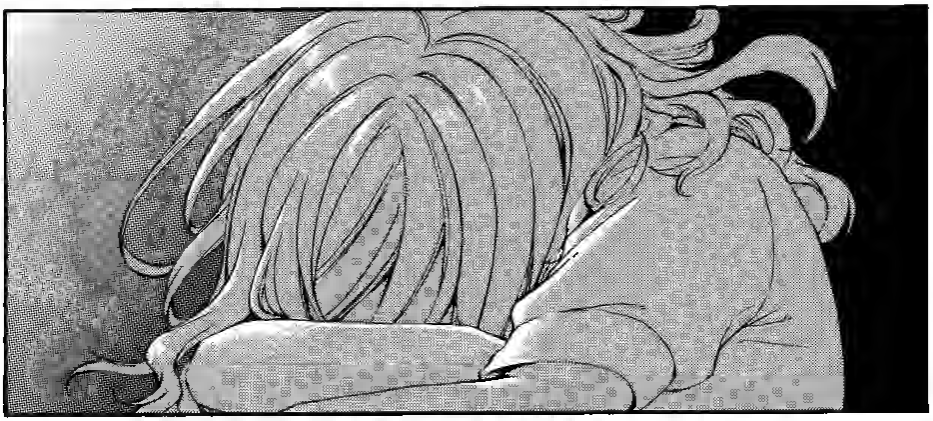
...Heheh.
If Onoda-sensei is going around checking on everyone
I had so much fun at the beach today~
I might get to see him.
HEY!
KYA!

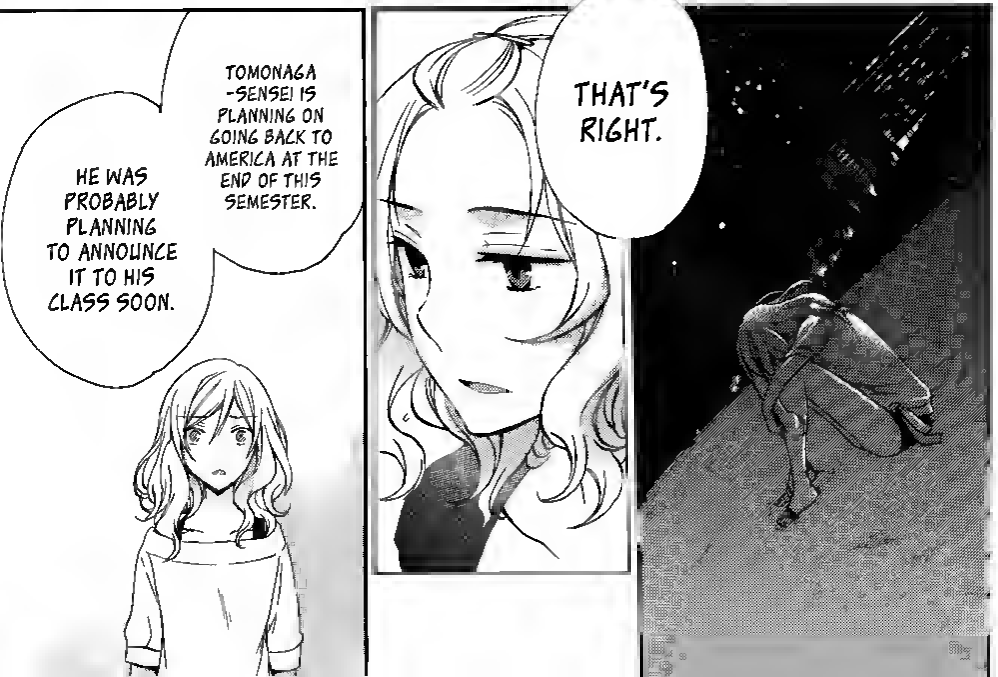
Yeah, yeah.
Go on, get going
GET BACK TO YOUR ROOMS UNTIL IT'S TIME, ALRIGHT?
YOU'RE ALL SUPPOSED TO BE IN YOUR ROOMS NOW, IT'S ALMOST DINNER TIME.
WAS THIS THE LAST PLACE FOR US TO CHECK?
YEAH, WE'RE DONE NOW.
Sensei~♥
HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN HARUKA?
YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE...
COME ON, TOHNO

HARUKA STILL HASN'T COME BACK FROM THE BATHS.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
NO, I HAVEN'T.
HRMM, I SEE.
HMM, NOT REALLY.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE SHE MIGHT'VE WENT?
I WENT AND LOOKED, BUT SHE WASN'T THERE.
MAYBE SHE'S JUST TAKING A LONG BATH?
OK, LET'S SPLIT UP THEN.
I'LL CHECK AROUND INSIDE, YOU GO LOOK OUTSIDE.
OK.
W-WE'LL HELP LOOK FOR HER TOO THEN.
IF YOU FIND HER OR SHE COMES BACK TO HER ROOM GIVE ME A CALL.
Hirose has my number!

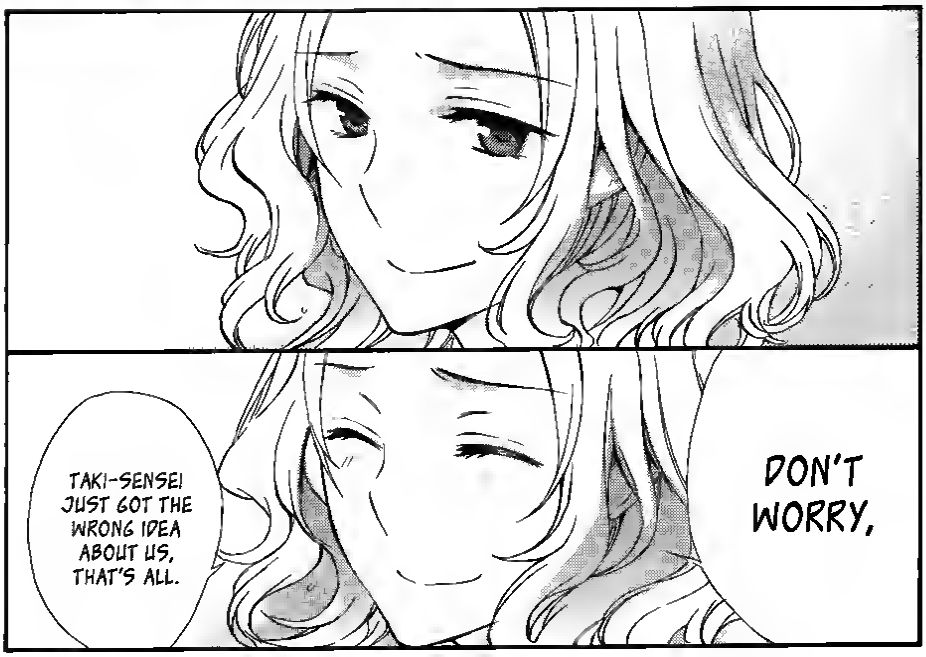
TOHNO, YOU GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM TOO.
BUT I'M TOO SCARED TO GO BACK ALONE NOW~
I'D FEEL MUCH SAFER IF YOU TOOK ME BACK~
.....
WILL YOU JUST GIVE UP ON ME ALREADY?
NO, I WON'T.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T EVEN EXPLAINED WHY I CAN'T BE WITH YOU.
YOU SHOULD START BY TELLING ME HOW YOU MET YOUR WIFE
WHILE YOU TAKE ME BACK TO MY ROOM.
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOUR FRIEND?
SHE'S PROBABLY FINE, I DOUBT IT'S ANYTHING SERIOUS.
WE'D HAVE A BIG PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS IF IT IS SERIOUS, YOU KNOW .
BUT FINE.
I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR ROOM, HAPPY?
YOU MEAN IT? YAY~♥

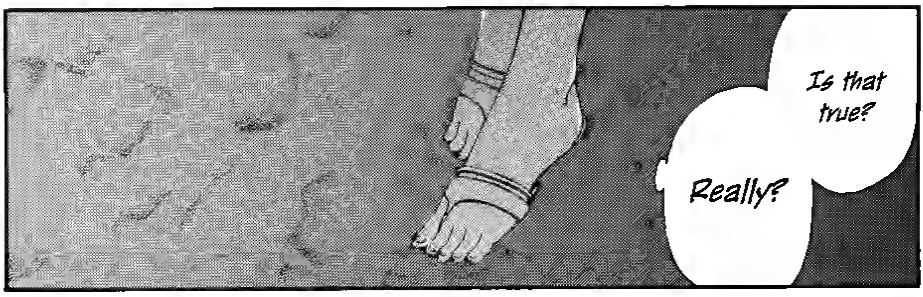





TOMONAGA -SENSEI IS PLANNING ON GOING BACK TO AMERICA AT THE END OF THIS SEMESTER.
HE WAS PROBABLY PLANNING TO ANNOUNCE IT TO HIS CLASS SOON.
THAT'S RIGHT.

ABOUT MY RELATIONSHIP
WITH TOMONAGA-SENSEI.
ALSO,


TAKI-SENSEI JUST GOT THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT US, THAT'S ALL.
DON'T WORRY,

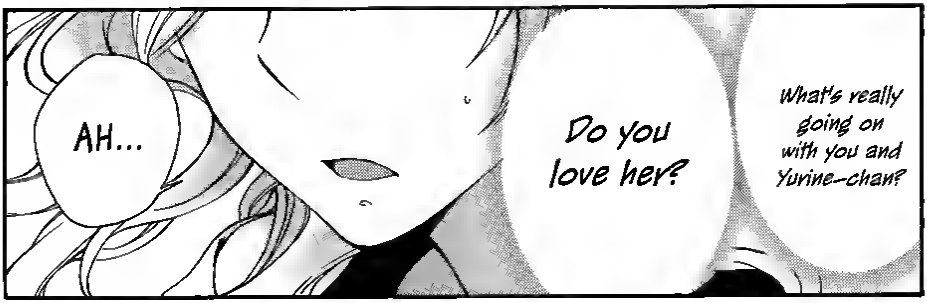

Is that true?
Really?

Can I trust her?
Is she really telling the truth?

I'm so confused.
KUSA-KABE!!

HEY!!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE!?
T-TOMO-NAGA!?
I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU!
TOHNO TOLD US THAT YOU NEVER CAME BACK... I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALRIGHT.
Ah, I left my phone in the room.
COME ON, WE'RE GOING BACK.

IF WE MAKE IT BACK BEFORE DINNER NO ONE WILL FIND OUT AND YOU WON'T GET IN TROUBLE...
I'll listen to your [illegible] later
HEY.


What's really going on with you and Yurine-chan?
Do you love her?
AH...

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE
GOING BACK TO AMERICA?

YEAH.
AFTER THE FIRST SEMESTER ENDS,
I PLAN ON GOING BACK.

DID HIROSE TELL YOU?
EH...
I HEARD YURINE. KAYAMA-SENSEI AND TAKI-SENSEI TALKING ABOUT IT...
AHH.
I hope that's all they were talking about.
DOES AOI... KNOW TOO?

THAT YOU'RE GOING BACK TO AMERICA.
YEAH, I TOLD HIROSE EARLIER.
SHE WAS PROBABLY KEEPING IT SECRET FOR ME UNTIL I TOLD EVERYONE ELSE.
IT WAS JUST BEFORE THIS FIELD TRIP AND ALL.
I BET SHE DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE EVERYONE WORRY AND RUIN IT.

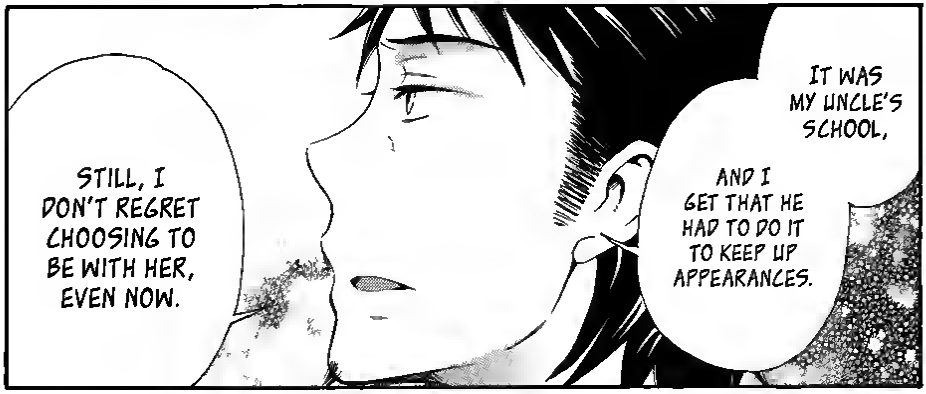
ANYWAY, COME ON, LET'S GO.
AH... OK...
I get it.
Aoi is a nice girl.
I agree with what Tomonaga said, she probably kept quiet for my sake.
But

Why?
Why didn't you tell me, too?

HARUKA'S BEEN KINDA OUT OF IT EVER SINCE SHE CAME BACK YESTERDAY.
YOU THINK SOMETHING HAPPENED? I HOPE SHE'S OK.
TOUKO TOO.
SHE'S BEEN LOST IN HER OWN WORLD THIS WHOLE TIME.

LET'S SEE, I FIRST MET MY WIFE...
BACK WHEN I WAS DOING MY STUDENT TEACHER WORK .. I TOLD YOU THAT BEFORE, RIGHT?
YEAH, YOU DID.
SHE HAD A WEAK BODY EVER SINCE SHE WAS IN SCHOOL
AND AS A RESULT, SHE SPENT A TON OF TIME IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
SHE GOT TAKEN THERE A LOT BECAUSE OF HER ANEMIA.

BACK THEN I WAS THE ONLY YOUNG GUY AROUND,
WHICH MEANT I WAS ALWAYS THE ONE TO CARRY HER TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THAT
IT DIDN'T TAKE US LONG TO BE DRAWN TO ONE ANOTHER.
SHE GOT MARRIED TO ME SHORTLY AFTER GRADUATING,
AND I GOT SENT TO A BOY'S SCHOOL FOR GETTING INVOLVED WITH A STUDENT.
EVEN THOUGH SHE ALREADY GRADUATED?


IT WAS MY UNCLE'S SCHOOL,
AND I GET THAT HE HAD TO DO IT TO KEEP UP APPEARANCES.
STILL, I DON'T REGRET CHOOSING TO BE WITH HER, EVEN NOW.

THEN
WHY DID YOU BREAK UP?

YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THIS YET,
BUT JUST BECAUSE SOMETHING LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING WELL
DOESN'T MEAN THERE AREN'T PROBLEMS UNDER THE SURFACE.

ANYWAY,
COME ON, LET'S GO.
AH.

He dodged the question again.
Adults are so unfair.
But...
If it was me, I'd hug that lonely back of his
and stay with him no matter what.

Hahh,
I really do love him, don't I?
I wish I was an adult already.

Aoi always told me
that Tomonaga could leave this school at any moment.
But I thought that was something way in the future...
how I really feel.
I need to come out and tell him
But

Hey, Aoi.
She's so mature, and beautiful,
and kind to everyone around her.
There's no way I can win!!
Do you
What if Tomonaga really does love Yurine-chan...

know the truth about them?

AOI,
HARUKA -CHAN.
WHAT IS IT?

AOI.
DO YOU HAVE A SECOND?

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT TOMONAGA IS GOING BACK TO AMERICA SOON?

WHA-
ALSO,
D. DID YOU KNOW THAT KAYAMA-SENSEI AND TOMONAGA
WERE GOING OUT?
Wh-
AOI?
BUT THIS IS THE ONE THING I COULD NEVER BRING MYSELF TO TELL HER!!
She seems pretty sure that I know about Tomonaga going back to America,
Technically they were never going out, but still.
Where did she find that out...?

YOU MEAN IT?
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW?
SORRY, I WAS JUST REALLY SURPRISED FOR A SEC THERE.
WHO TOLD YOU THAT? I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE.
I REALLY REALLY MEAN IT.
I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT BEFORE.
YOU REALLY REALLY MEANT IT?
I PROMISE I'M NOT LYING.
CROSS MY HEART AND HOPE TO DIE, STICK A NEEDLE IN MY EYE.

THAT'S A RELIEF.
ほっ

IF THEY WERE REALLY IN LOVE AND GOING OUT WITH EACH OTHER
SHE SAID IT LOOKED LIKE TOMONAGA AND YURINE-CHAN WERE GOING OUT.
I HEARD HER TALKING TO YURINE-CHAN ABOUT IT.
I GUESS TAKI-SENSEI REALLY DID JUST HAVE THE WRONG IDEA THEN.

I WOULD'VE HAD TO GIVE UP
WITHOUT EVEN GETTING TO TELL TOMONAGA I LOVE HIM.
BEFORE HE LEAVES.
THANKS. I PROMISE I'LL TELL TOMONAGA HOW I FEEL

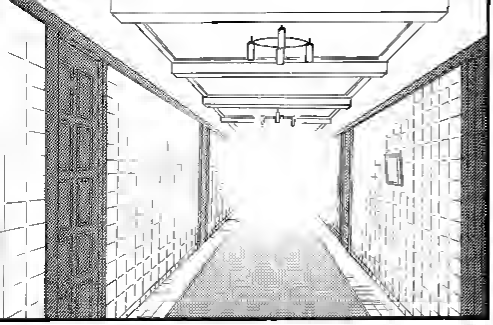
There I go, lying again.
GOOD.
Sorry, Haruka-chan.
Sorry!
Hey, quit falling behind!
Guess I'll have to stick a needle in my eye.
Good luck, Haruka-chan.

ALSO, I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE.
I APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE, BUT I PLAN ON GOING BACK TO DO MORE RESEARCH AFTER THIS SEMESTER
SO~
2-4
I KNOW WE JUST GOT BACK,
BUT DON'T FORGET, FINALS ARE COMING UP.

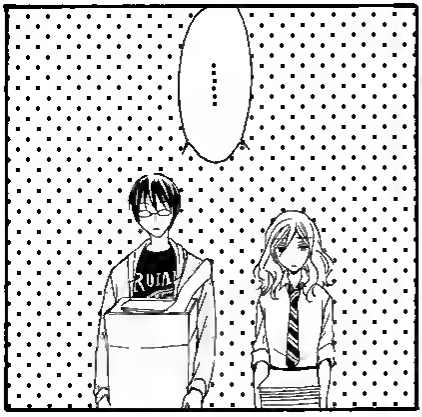
THE SCHOOL IS ALREADY LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT FOR ME, SO NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

BUT I HOPE THAT...
I REGRET NOT BEING ABLE TO JOIN YOU ALL AT GRADUATION,
IN ANY CASE,

Prep Room
HUH?
CLEANING UP ALREADY?
YEAH.
ALRIGHTY.
GONNA GO THROW THIS STUFF OUT
EVEN THOUGH YOU AREN'T LEAVING FOR A WHILE YET?
MIGHT AS WELL GET RID OF STUFF I DON'T NEED NOW, RIGHT?



ISN'T THAT A BIT TOO MUCH TO CARRY?
GIMMIE SOME OF IT, I'LL HELP.
YOU WILL?
OK THEN, CAN YOU TAKE THIS FOR ME?
YEAH, I GUESS.
HAVE FUN~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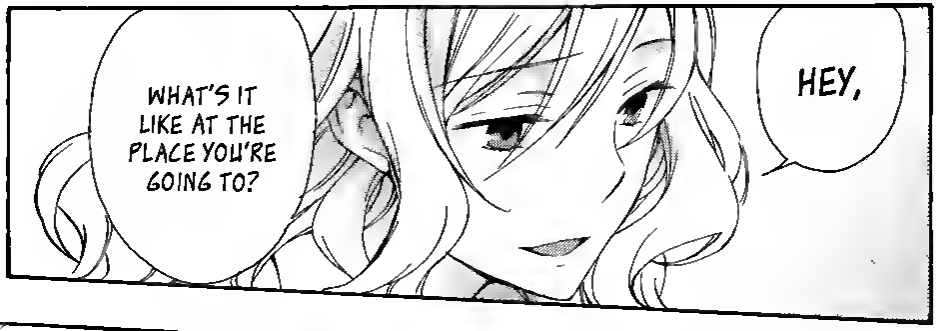
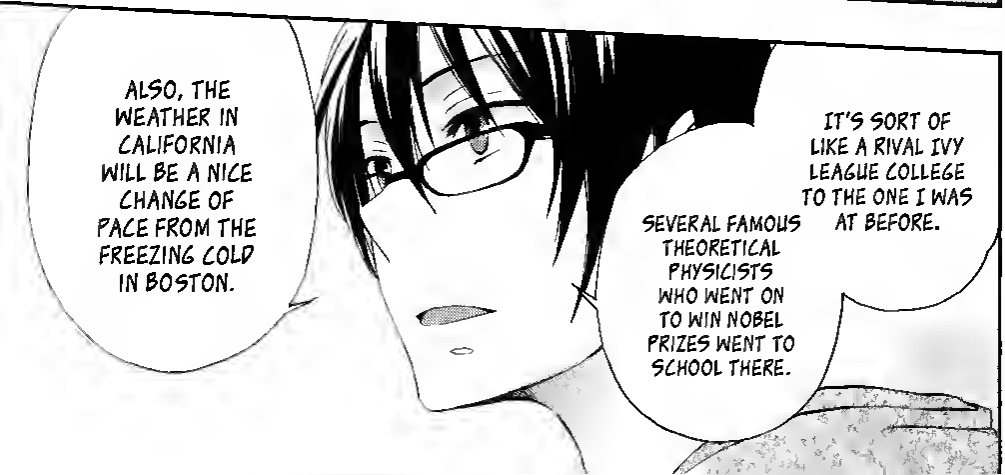
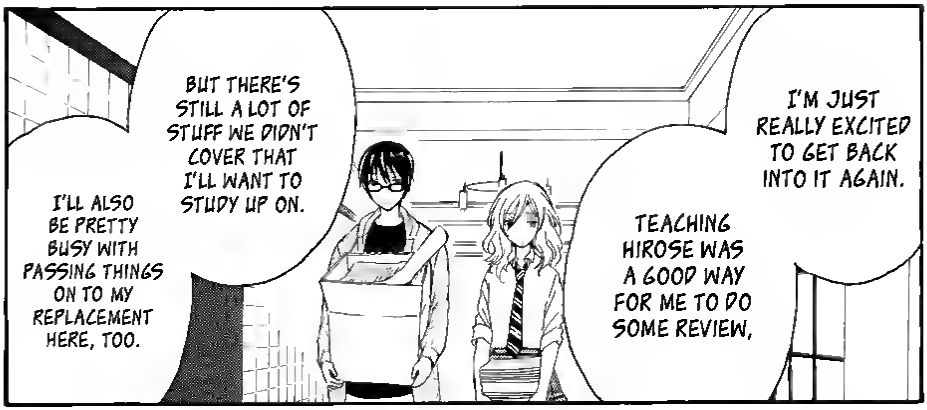

HEY,
WHAT'S IT LIKE AT THE PLACE YOU'RE GOING TO?

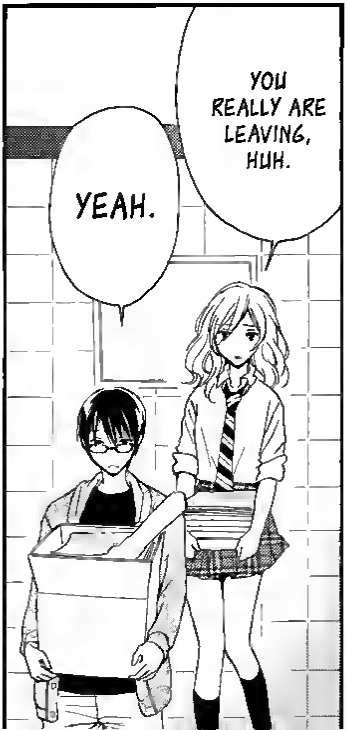

IT'S SORT OF LIKE A RIVAL IVY LEAGUE COLLEGE TO THE ONE I WAS AT BEFORE.
SEVERAL FAMOUS THEORETICAL PHYSICISTS WHO WENT ON TO WIN NOBEL PRIZES WENT TO SCHOOL THERE.
ALSO, THE WEATHER IN CALIFORNIA WILL BE A NICE CHANGE OF PACE FROM THE FREEZING COLD IN BOSTON.


I'M JUST REALLY EXCITED TO GET BACK INTO IT AGAIN.
TEACHING HIROSE WAS A GOOD WAY FOR ME TO DO SOME REVIEW,
BUT THERE'S STILL A LOT OF STUFF WE DIDN'T COVER THAT I'LL WANT TO STUDY UP ON.
I'LL ALSO BE PRETTY BUSY WITH PASSING THINGS ON TO MY REPLACEMENT HERE, TOO.

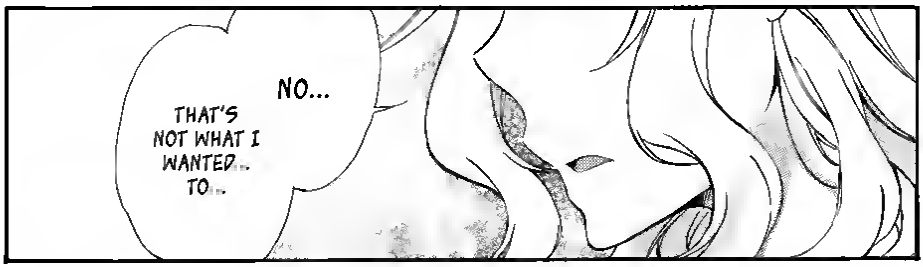
ALSO, SORRY AGAIN
FOR NOT STAYING UNTIL GRADUATION.

HOPEFULLY IT WON'T TAKE TOO LONG TO FIND SOMEBODY.

I HAD A LOT OF FUN HERE TOO,
BUT MY GOAL IN LIFE LIES ELSEWHERE.

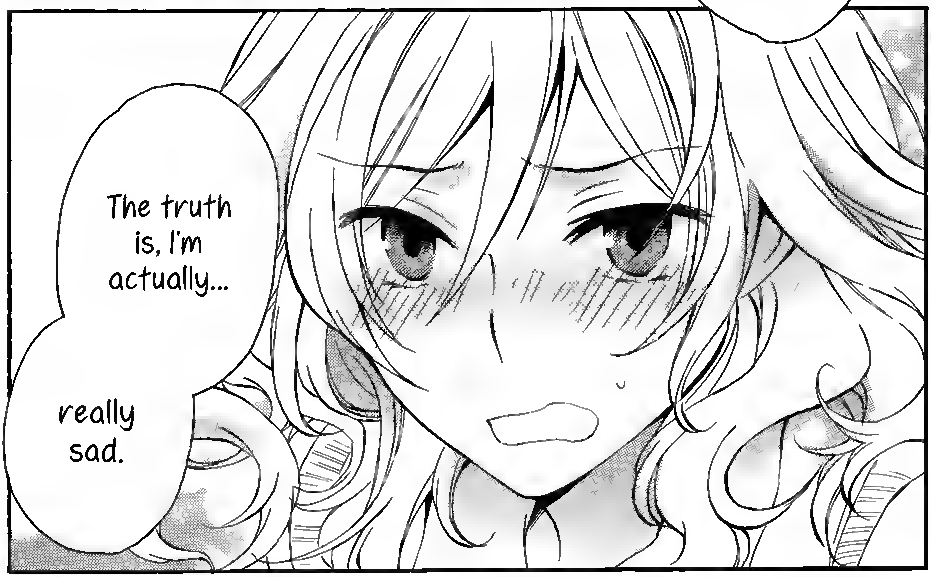

YOU REALLY ARE LEAVING, HUH.
YEAH.

ARE YOU AT LEAST A LITTLE SAD THAT I'M LEAVING?
HMPH, I CAN'T WAIT TO GET RID OF YOU!
HAHA, YEAH. HOPEFULLY YOUR NEW TEACHER WILL BE BETTER THAN I WAS.


NO...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED... TO...

HEY, TOMONAGA.
HM?

I lied.


The truth is, I'm actually...
really sad.

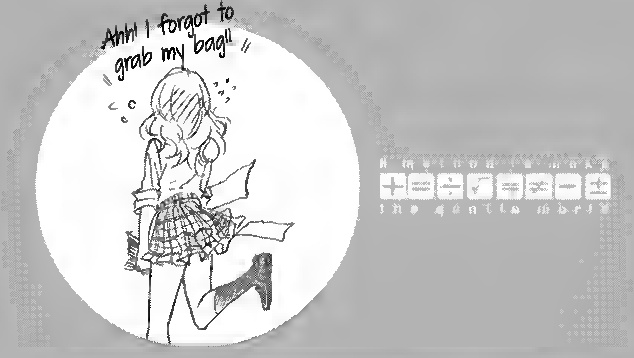
SEE YOU TOMORROW!

ﾀﾞｯﾀﾞｯﾀﾞｯ。

talking about Kusakabe back then...
I didn't see that coming.
But
So she was
I see.
O-
ぼーぜん
OKAY.

I must be a pretty cruel adult...
I'm a little disappointed that it was her and not Hirose.

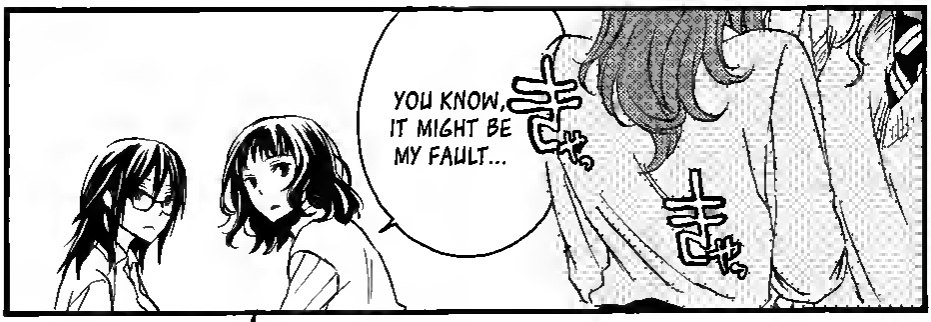
for a thought like that to cross my mind.
~TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 6~


Ahh! I forgot to grab my bag!!

■EXTRA

WH-
WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR!?
'CAUSE, YOU SAID YOU'D NEVER KISSED ANYONE BEFORE.
YOU JERK!!
THAT WAS MY FIRST KISS, TOO!!
RELAX, KISSES BETWEEN GIRLS DON'T COUNT.
IF YOU WANT,
WE COULD GO FURTHER THAN JUST A KISS, TOO.
No!!
YOU THERE, QUIET IN THE LIBRARY.

I hope Haruka-chan is okay.
Wow, you're so amazing, Haruka-chan!
Haruka-chan!! I'll go ask Tomonaga-sensei for you♡


YOU KNOW, IT MIGHT BE MY FAULT...
ぎゅっ
ぎゅっ

THAT AOI ACTS LIKE THAT...
WHAT THE HECK DID YOU TO DO HER?

AFTERWORD
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR READING.
WE'VE FINALLY HIT VOLUME 5.
I'm practically dead, but I haven't given up yet.
MY LIFE'S BEEN SO HECTIC LATELY
THAT MY HP IS AT 0 NOW.
BUT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO HANG ON BY READING TWEETS AND SUCH FROM PEOPLE SAYING THEY'RE READING MY WORK.
I PLAN TO END THIS STORY IN THE NEXT VOLUME.
AND THE LAST CHAPTER IS WHAT I'VE WANTED TO DRAW SINCE THE START
It's almost time to say farewell to this lab coat! Too bad theoretical studies don't get to wear lab coats too
SO I'LL DO MY BEST TO HANG IN THERE UNTIL THE VERY END.

staff
あがたちよ

Special Thanks
第23話監修　橋本幸士先生

ありぼぼ
沖ナナコ
水清十朗

VEXED SCANS

A METHED TO MAKE THE GENTLE WORLD - 25

TYPESETTING: RELM
THE PITA REDRAWS: VEXED
THE REST: VEXED

METHED WARS VOLUME V: THE HARUKA STRIKES BACK!

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